

HISTORICAL SKETCHES

RELATING TO

SPENCER, MASS.

BY

HENRY M. TOWER.



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VOLUME IV

1909

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HENRY MENDELL TOWER

Born July 23, 1847

Died April 23, 1904

HENRY MENDELL TOWER

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF THE AUTHOR OF "SKETCHES OF SPENCER HISTORY."

[The material for this Volume IV of "Sketches of Spencer History," was compiled and collated by Mr. Tower prior to his death, and during the weeks of his last long illness he completed the necessary details for the publication of the volume. In his will he directed his heirs to see that the book was published.]

His heirs, complying with his wishes, present this volume, therefore, to its readers, dedicating it to the memory of their loved husband and parent.

This volume, being a posthumous work, and none of the previous volumes having contained a suitable biography or appreciation of Mr. Tower's life and work, the following tribute and sketch, published in a newspaper April 30, 1904, the week following his death, is here reproduced:

"Henry Mendell Tower died Saturday afternoon April 23, 1904, after an illness of several months, aged fifty-six years, nine months.

"Mr. Tower has been a very useful citizen, particularly in the latter years of his life, when he relinquished to some extent active business affairs and devoted himself in a considerable degree to things which would be of benefit to his native town and fellow-citizens.

"He always held an active interest in things historical and few people can realize the patient and persistent labor exercised by him in resurrecting and preserving data and historical things. It is, perhaps, not known to many that he was the founder and prime mover in the organization of the Spencer museum, contributing largely in its early days valuable relics, which now may be seen on the shelves at the Sugden library.

"Mr. Tower was a man who accomplished things. Once with his mind set upon attaining some ideal or object he worked with rare persistency and was not satisfied to stop short of accomplishment if the latter could be obtained by honorable means.

"He prepared at great expense and has had printed two volumes of "Sketches of Spencer History," a third volume is in process of printing now at the Spencer Leader office and the manuscript for a fourth volume was left by him to be published by his heirs. Mr. Tower made no pretense at compiling a comprehensive history of the town, his purpose being simply to collate and preserve bits of local history that might otherwise be destroyed or lost. He never expected or realized financial reward from these labors and we believe that he was actuated by a high purpose, as shown in the words printed on the fly-leaf of his first volume: 'I shall pass through this world but once—therefore if there be any good I can do, let me do it now, for I shall never come this way again.'

"He possessed a great quantity and variety of information. He made painstaking efforts to acquire more and if there be any inaccuracies in any of the historical works which he has produced they do not come from any failure to do his part.

"He had been successful and unsuccessful in business affairs, and successful again. His organization of the Spencer Paper Box Co., of which he had the sole management until health failed him two years ago, was followed by unusual success; unskilled help has become skilled and the business particularly prosperous.

"For some months, after trying for health in the climates of other states, he has realized that the end was coming. He watched for the translation to the other world with the utmost complacency, resignation and ardent faith. Frequently, when we have spoken with him in these latter months, he would speak of his approaching end, always calmly, philosophically and hopefully.

"Perhaps no man is without his faults, but whatever of these Henry M. Tower had, they are entirely overshadowed by the good which he endeavored to do for his family, his fellow

citizens and native town. He has erected a monument for himself that is enduring.

"Henry M. Tower was born July 23, 1847, in the building on Main street that for many years afterward was used for a boot factory by Prouty Bros.

"He was the son of Ambrose Mendell Tower and Rosamond Draper Adams. He always took considerable pride in his ancestry, the paternal side coming from John Tower of Hingham, who came from England in 1637, and the maternal side being descendant from Henry Adams of Quincy, who came from England also in 1637. His father was an expert and skilled mechanic and the son inherited considerable of his father's ingenuity. His mother was of most beautiful character and is remembered with respect by many citizens during her residence at Red Gate cottage at the junction of Lincoln and Pleasant streets, now owned by W. J. Heffernan.

"Mr. Tower learned the trade of jeweler from his grandfather, Luke Tower, who at that time lived where Miss Vian Snow now resides, corner Lincoln and Pleasant streets. He worked at this trade in Randolph and other places, but afterward became a builder and erected a number of houses in Spencer. In 1873 he went into the real estate business and was occupied in that way for some time. Later he took a place with Isaac Prouty & Co. as shop carpenter and afterward superintended the construction of the large brick storehouse of the company and also the residence of C. N. Prouty on Cherry street. He was for many years a boss carpenter and contractor, building many of the houses in Spencer and surrounding towns.

"For a time he was engaged in manufacturing boot trees, and then in company with Wm. Tucker organized the Tower Machine Co., which manufactured lathes and other machines at East Brookfield. He next turned his attention to the manufacture of a water filter and the result was the organization of the Sanitary Improvement Co. This business was not particularly successful owing to the expensiveness of the product and consequent narrowly limited field for sales, and the concern went out of business. Mr. Tower next started the manufacture in 1890 of paper boxes at West Brookfield and after being there for

nearly a year moved his plant to the I. Prouty & Co. shop at Spencer. This business has been particularly prosperous and successful. Two years prior to his death he resigned the management of this business to his eldest son, DeWitt, and went to Colorado and Georgia. His health, which had become somewhat impaired, was apparently benefited for a time by the climates of both Colorado and Georgia.

"Mr. Tower served for a year or more as president of the Spencer Board of Trade, during which time it saw some of its liveliest days. He made vigorous and persistent effort to accomplish results for the benefit of the town through this agency. He caused to be erected signs marking the Elias Howe birthplace and endeavored to exploit the town as a summer resort. He was largely responsible for the creation of Bemis Memorial park.

"Mr. Tower was married in 1870 to Sarah Woodbury, who survives him, with four children, DeWitt, Ida B., Arthur M. and Ambrose L.

"The funeral was held Tuesday afternoon at two o'clock in the M. E. church, of which society Mr. Tower was a trustee. The service was in charge of Rev. W. A. Wood.

"Interment was at Pine Grove cemetery."

SPENCER PHIPS

SIR WM. PHIPS

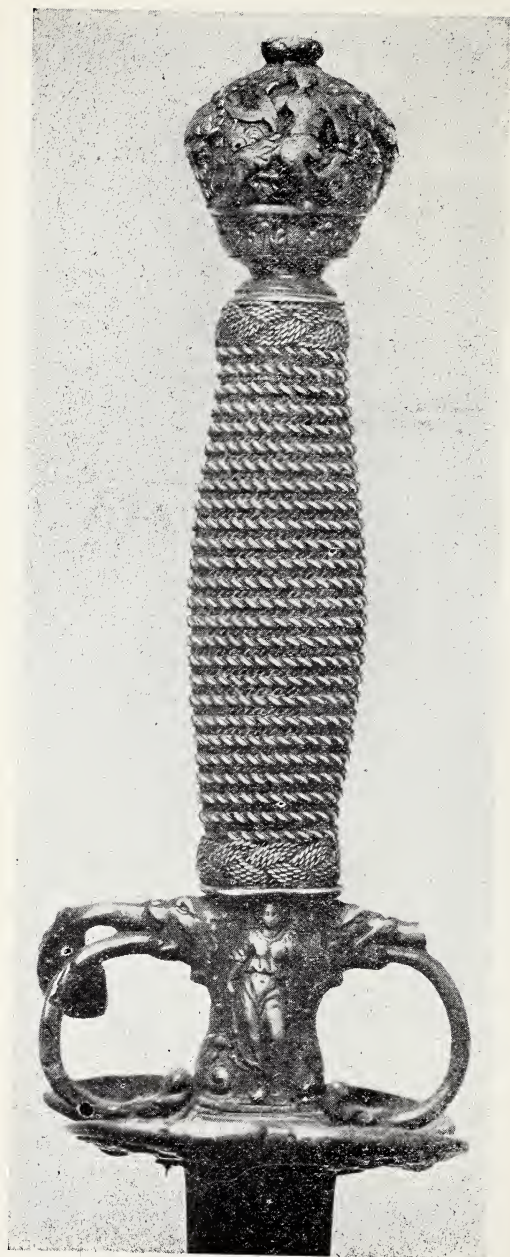
The following epitaph to his memory is inscribed in the Church of Saint Mary Woolworth. London :

“Near this place is interred the body of Sir Wm. Phips, Knight, who in the year 1687 by his great industry discovered among the rocks near the banks of Bahama on the north side of Hispaniola, a Spanish plate ship which had been under water forty-four years, out of which he took gold and silver to the value of three hundred thousand pounds sterling, and with a fidelity equal to his conduct brought it all to London, where it was divided between himself and the rest of his adventurers, for which great service he was Knighted by his then majesty King James II. and afterwards by the command of his present majesty ; and at the request of the principal inhabitants of New England he accepted the Government of the Massachusetts in which he continued to the time of his death, and discharged his trust with that zeal for the interest of his country and with so little regard to his own private advantage that he justly gained the good esteem and affections of the greatest and best part of the inhabitants of that colony. He died 18 February, 1694, and his lady to perpetuate his memory hath caused this monument to be erected.”

For Whom was Spencer Named ?

No one living knows. But there is some circumstantial evidence which points to a probability which is set forth in a publication of the Massachusetts Historical society for 1873 and is as follows :

“Spencer, possibly a name given by the Lieut. Governor (then acting Governor), Spencer Phips. He was the adopted son of Sir Wm. Phips, being Spencer Bennett, nephew of Lady Phips, who was the daughter of Roger Spencer. The well known title of Earl of Spencer was created in 1765 but in 1753 Chas. Spencer, 3rd Earl of Sunderland, had succeeded to the honors of his maternal grandfather and was the 2d Duke of Marlborough. The high position of the duke in political life inclines to the belief that the town was named in



Elaborately engraved silver handle of a sword carried by
Spencer Phips and now in Harvard Library, Cam-
bridge, Mass. Photographed Expressly
for this work.

his honor.” Assuming the above to be true the suggestion for the town’s name probably was introduced by Spencer Phips. The items which follow in regard to the Phips family are of interest.

From Paige’s History of Cambridge.

“Spencer Phips was son of David Bennett of Rowley by his wife Rebecca Spencer. He was born at Rowley, June 6, 1685, and was early adopted by Gov. Wm. Phips whose wife was a sister to Mrs. Bennett. He took the name of Phips when quite young, which was confirmed to him as his legal name by the general court June 18, 1716. He graduated H. C. 1703, was a Colonel, Representative 1721, Councillor 1721-1732, Lieut. Gov. 1732-1757. He bought the Haugh farm of more than 300 acres embracing the whole of East Cambridge and the Northeasterly portion of Cambridgeport Aug. 15, 1706, and soon after removed there. He also bought Oct. 2, 1714, the estate formerly owned by Dr. James Oliver on Arrow St. near Bow St., afterwards known as the Winthrop Estate which became his homestead. He died Apr. 4, 1757. His wife Elizabeth died May 7, 1764.

“David, son of Spencer (born Sept. 25, 1724) inherited the homestead and resided there until the Revolution, when he adhered to the King and went with his family to England where he died July 7, 1811. His estate here was confiscated but the loss was repaired by benefits which the British Government bestowed upon him and on his children.

“In Will of wife of Spencer Phips, son of Sir. Wm. Phips, late of Boston, in New England, deceased, maiden name Mary Sargeant, daughter of Roger Spencer—“I give to Dorcas Salter, wife of Eneas Salter, Jr., that silver tankard my son used at college.”

Spencer Phips’ Son David.

Taken from English records and includes his application, claim, evidence and decision on his claim for compensation as a Loyalist.

“Persons receiving allowance under a General Minute of the Board dated the . . day of . . but whose claims are not set forth by memorial or supported by voucher.

“Phips, David. Present allowance 100 pounds. Profession, Lieutenant in the Navy.

“Mr. Flucker knows him very well, he is now at Halifax, was taken by a French ship and is now out of business. He is an excellent man, suffered very much by the powder, with

General Gage, ordered to be removed. He was sheriff of Middlesex. He was very ill used on account of his removing the powder, they would have stoned him if they had caught him, he was released about 4 or 5 months ago from Boston. Mr. Phips, he believes had property worth about 2,000 pounds. He had a good house and a farm. Is told he has got the promise of ship from the Commander of the Fleet at Halifax, he is a Master and Commander but does not know whether he receives pay or not.

"His character fully certified, no further attendance required.

"Mr. Phips attends himself, and says he was put upon the list by Lord Geor. Germaine, when he was first Lieutenant in the Navy and he was then put on the list for 100 pounds a year and now he suffers by having been active in his profession. He has a wife and seven children, his wife and three daughters are here and three sons and one daughter in America."

He values his property in America at 5,000 pounds Sterling.

Decision.

We heard this gentleman's case from Mr. Flucker who speaks well of him and says he was sheriff of Middlesex in the Province of Massachusetta Bay, and that he is now at Halifax on the Naval line. He is a master and commander, and has the promise of a ship from the admiral on that station. His pay as Master and Commander is 6 shillings a day. We think that as he at present receives 6 shillings a day that 50 pounds a year will be sufficient until he gets a ship and that whenever he gets a ship, the whole of his allowance should cease.

Audit office Records. Public Record Office England 1783-1790. Decisions on Old Claims for temporary support Oct.-Dec. 1782. Bk. 2. Vol. 3 p. 286.

David Phips died at Bath in Somerset, England, in 1811, aged 87.

HISTORY OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN SPENCER.

By Rev. Otis Cole.

At an early date there was a Baptist church in Greenville, a village in the southwest part of Leicester. In its records the following item has been found :

“In 1818 the church was divided in consequence of the remoteness of several of its members from their place of worship and a new society was formed in the northeast part of Spencer.”

Prior to the organizing of this new body a Baptist church had been organized in Brookfield and a commodious meeting-house erected in 1795 on the old post road from Spencer to East Brookfield about a thousand feet beyond the Spencer line. Certain citizens of Spencer were interested in this movement. Ezekiel Baxter, Ezra Bennet, Luke Converse, Elisha Drake, Clarke Hill, David and Thomas Jenks were members of the society. It is not known that any Spencer people were at that time members of the church. Many of the chief families of the western part of the town are said to have worshipped there. Nathaniel Bemis, Jr., occupied the highest priced pew in this meeting-house, within the memory of those now living. Later Dea. Amos Bemis and wife were members of the church. Dea. B. was then in charge of Spencer powder mills. He afterwards moved to a farm in the northwest part of the town and joined the church at Jocktown. This ancient house of worship, in Brookfield and so near the Spencer line, was taken down in 1830 and rebuilt for the Baptists at a more convenient location in East Brookfield village. There it still stands as the home of the church though more than a hundred years have passed since its first erection.

Returning from this digression, which has not been devoid of interest, it must be noted that no indication of the number set off at Greenville as the nucleus of a church at North Spencer is found, either in the extract from the church record given above or in the minutes of the council at which the new ecclesiastical body was organized. The register of the First Baptist church in Spencer has some twenty-four names of

men and women whose membership is dated earlier than 1819, the year of its organization. But this affords no assurance that all of this company came from the Greenville church. Probably many of them did. That is all that can be affirmed. Nothing is shown as to residence, save that the Bonds and Bryants are known to have been Leicester people and J. Cunningham a resident of Spencer. It is certain also that some Paxton families were interested in the new movement, being, at least, of Baptist training and heritage, or inclination.

Jonathan Cunningham was the great grandson of Robert Cunningham and inheritor of a goodly portion of the large landed estate which Robert bought in 1731, of Col. Joshua Lamb, one of the original proprietors of the town. Jonathan, with his wife, Deliverance Earle, united with the Baptist church, probably at Greenville, in 1810, nine years prior to the forming of a church in his own neighborhood and house. He built the generous farm house, lately owned and occupied by John Norton, now deceased. This dwelling is still in service. In it the council for the organization of the new church met, June 30, 1819. This house, probably sometime used as a tavern on the old country road also, must be nearly, perhaps quite, a century old.

A copy of the record of the council with the names of its members, of the articles of faith adopted and of the covenant then made now follows :

Constitution of the First Baptist Church in Spencer.

Spencer, June 30, 1819. In pursuance of letters missive from the Baptist Church in Leicester to the Baptist Churches in Charlton, Worcester, Holden and Brookfield, the afternamed Pastors and Delegates convened in Council at the house of Mr. Jonathan Cunningham for the purpose of considering the propriety of establishing a Baptist Church in this place.

Present from Charlton—James Boomer, Pastor ; David Dunbar, Daniel Bacon, Delegates ; Worcester—Jonathan Going, Pastor ; Luther Goddard, Solomon Parsons, Andrew Adams, Delegates ; Holden—John Walker, Pastor ; Windsor Newton, William Metcalf, Delegates ; Brookfield—John Chase, Pastor ; Rufus Harrington, Henry Sprague, Delegates ; Leicester—James Sprague, Pastor ; Daniel Woodard, David Parker, Committee.

The Council was organized by choosing Rev. Jonathan Going, Moderator and Rev. John Chase, Scribe. After prayer by the Moderator the Council proceeded to inquire into the religious views and principles of those persons desirous to be

constituted into a Church of Christ ; and being satisfied with their statements in relation to the topics involved in gospel doctrines, and church discipline, voted to give them fellowship as a church of Christ—to be called the First Baptist Church in Spencer.

Br. Bonner was appointed to preach at 2 o'clock P. M. Br. Goddard to address the Church and give the hand of fellowship. After prayer by Br. Culter the Council dissolved.

JONATHAN GOING, Moderator.

JOHN CHASE, Scribe.

Articles of Faith and Covenant.

Adopted June 30, 1819.

Article 1st. We believe in one God, who is self-existent, independent, and eternal, whose nature comprises every possible perfection, excellence and glory, manifested in the works of creation, providence and redemption. That it hath pleased God to make himself known by (a) three, who bear record in Heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost, and that these three are one. That Jesus Christ in the beginning (b) was the Word, was with God and was God. That all things were created by him, and for him, and (c) man from the dust of the ground, in his own image, and breathed into him the breath of life, and he became a living soul capable of knowing, loving and obeying his Creator. But by the sin of our first parents (d) judgment has come upon all men to condemnation (e) that the holy scriptures which are given by inspiration of God (f) are able to make us wise unto salvation (g) through faith in Jesus Christ.

Art. 2nd. We believe that we are all by nature the children of wrath (h) enemies in our own mind to God by wicked works, that there is none that doeth good, no not one, (i) but are prone to evil and that continually, and to do good have no knowledge and in this is our condemnation (j) that light is to come into the world and we have loved darkness rather than light, and will not come to Christ that we may have life, so that salvation is of the Lord.

Art. 3rd. We believe that God, (k) who declareth the end from the beginning, calleth those things that be not as though they were, (l) who is rich in mercy for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, for by grace we are saved through faith and that not of ourselves, it is the gift of God, (m) not by works of righteousness, which we have done, (n) but according to his mercy has saved us by washing of regeneration,

and the renewing of the Holy Ghost. That the doctrine of electing love, and grace is according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledgment of the truth, which is after godliness, and the hope (o) of eternal life which God that cannot lie promised before the world began, and hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ, according as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy, and without blame before him in love (p) in whom we have redemption through his blood, (q) the forgiveness of sins according to the riches of his grace.

Art. 4th. We believe that those who are called according to his purpose, and are preserved in Christ shall never perish, (r) for he that began a good work in them will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. (s) and nothing shall separate them from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord, (a) for they are dead and their life is hid with Christ in God, (b) and are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation. (c) The Father who gave them to Christ is greater than all and none is able to pluck them out of his hands. (d) That it is the indispensable duty of believers to maintain good works, (e) and so adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things. (f) To let their light shine before men (g) and to keep themselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Art. 5th. That as it hath pleased the Father that in Christ all fulness should dwell, (h) and hath given him to be head over all things in the church, (i) it is their duty to observe all things, whatsoever he hath commanded, there being one Lord, one faith and one baptism. (j) It is the duty of believers to subject themselves to the ordinances as instituted by him, that in Christ, and that in the original Greek baptize means to dip, to plunge, to immerse, to overwhelm, it is the believer's duty and privilege to follow the commands and institutions of Christ, buried (k) with Christ in baptism, to be baptized into the likeness of his death that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so they also should walk (l) in newness of life. Also that as the Lord Jesus Christ the same night in which he was betrayed took bread and when he had given thanks, brake it and gave it to his disciples saying take, eat, this is my body, which is broken for you, this do in remembrance of me, and in obedience to Christ we esteem it our duty and privilege (m) to commune

a, 1st John 5:9. John to b. c, Gen. 2:7. d, Gen. 3:6. e, Rom. 5:18.
f, Tim. 3:15. g, 2 Tim. 3:15. h, Col. 1:21. i, Pol. 4:3. j, John 3:19.
k, Isa. 46:10. l, Rom. 4:17. m, Eph. 2:5 and 5:8. n, Tit. 3:5. o, Tit. 1:2.
p, Eph. 1:3-4. q, Eph. 1:7. r, Rom. 8:28. s, Phil. 1:6.

with our faith, and order, (n) and thus show forth our Lord's death until he come. (o) Also they that preach the gospel should live of the gospel (p) and they who administer in holy, spiritual things have a right to reap the worldly things of the church.

Art. 6th. We believe there will be a resurrection of the dead (q) both of the just and of the unjust (r) for the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God. (s) Then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory, and before him shall be gathered all nations, and he shall separate them one from another as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats, and shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on his left, then shall the King say unto them on his right hand come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world ; then shall he say unto them on his left hand depart ye cursed into everlasting fire prepared for the Devil and his angels.

Covenant.

We do now in presence of God, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, and men and angels, voluntarily by the grace of God renewedly give up ourselves to God ; and to each other by the will of God ; to take him for our chiefest good and his word and Spirit for the rule of our lives. We also give up ourselves to the Lord Jesus Christ, and engage to adhere to him as the Head of his people in the covenant of grace and rely on Him as our Prophet, Priest and King to bring us to eternal glory.

We acknowledge it our indispensable duty to glorify God by leading a righteous, holy and good life in the present world, and in our several places and relations we engage by divine assistance to walk in our houses as becomes those who profess godliness, and to maintain the worship of God in our families, and to train up those under our care in the ways of religion. We do also give up ourselves to each other in covenant, promising to conduct towards each other as brethren in Christ, watching over each other in the love of God, and not only to watch against the more gross evils, but also against foolish talking and jesting, which are not convenient, vain disputing about words, and things which gender strife ; talking or backbiting or spending our time idly in vain and unnecessary conversation and whatsoever else is contrariwise to

a, Rom. 8:35-39. b, Cor. 3:3. c, John 10:29. d, Tit. 2:10. e, Tit. 3:8. f, 1 5:b. g, Jude 21:9. h, Co. 1:9. i, Eph. 1:22. j, Ept. 4:5. k, Rom. 4:4. l, 1 Cor. 11:23. m, 1 Cor. 10:21. n, 1 Cor. 11:22. o, 1 Cor. 9:14. p, 1 Cor. 9:11. q, Acts 14:15. r, Thes. 4:16. s, Mat. 25:41.

sound doctrine, and the glorious gospel of Christ ; promising to hold communion together in the worship of God, and in discipline of the church by faithfully attending all such meetings as we are, or may be led by the Spirit and word of God to appoint, that we may be led into the mysteries of his kingdom, expecting that he will more gloriously open unto us his word which we apply to the blood of the everlasting covenant for the pardon of our errors, and praying that the Lord would strengthen and prosper us for every good work to do his will, working in us that which is well pleasing in his sight through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

The quaint and biblical phrasing of these documents of ye olden days will command attention. The creed holds sturdily much wholesome truth. The Covenant evinces a holy purpose of christian brotherhood, watchcare and fidelity. Such Christian verities abide whatever may be the fortune of the churches that draft and adopt such inclusive and weighty formulas.

The following list of members includes, so far as the register shows, all who united with this Baptist church in the half-century of its history :

List of members of the First Baptist Church in Spencer With Date of Joining.

Abbreviations : B, Baptism ; L, by Letter.

Abbott, Cyrus, Nov. 23, 1819B	Bemis, Eldora, Oct. 6, 1861B
Allen, Phebe, Oct. 4, 1819B	Bemis, Hiram P., June 2, 1859B
Baldwin, Huldah, May 2, 1841B	Bemis, Mrs. Hiram P., Aug. 4, 1861B
Baldwin, Lucy, May 7, 1848L	Bemis, Huldah, Apr. 28, 1822B
Ball, Almira, Nov. 2, 1839B	Bemis, Lucretia, Aug. 5, 1820B
Ball, Cornelia F., Oct. 25, 1857B	Bemis, Mary, Sept. 5, 1830B
Ball, Daniel A., Oct. 25, 1857B	Bemis, Polly, Oct. 31, 1819B
Ball, Harriett, Oct. 29, 1829B	Bemis, Ruth, Aug. 1, 1841B
Ball, Isaac, Nov. 2, 1839B	Bemis, Sarah, July 3, 1836L
Ball, John, May 29, 1836B	Bemis, Selah, May 5, 1844L
Ball, Lawson, Nov. 19, 1837B	Berkly, Charlotte, Feb. 28, 1846
Ball, Susan, Oct. 1, 1842B	Boice, Margaret, Oct. 29, 1827
Barnes, Suel P., Apr. 6, 1844L	Boice, Mary, Apr. 5, 1841B
Barton, Betsy, May 5, 1844L	Boin, Betsey, Nov. 8, 1814B
Barton, Jenison, Sept. 5, 1819B	Boin, Clarissa, Apr. 28, 1822B
Barton, Molly, July 13, 1828L	Bond, Betsey, Aug. 12, 1810B
Barton, Selah, Aug. 22, 1819B	Bond, Carey, July 13, 1828B
Bellows, Austin, Oct. 6, 1861B	Bond, Dana, May 14, 1820B
Bellows, Mary E., July 22, 1866B	Bond, George, Sept. 2, 1798B
Bellows, Rosina P., July 22, 1866B	Bond, Hannah, May, 1797B
Bellows, Sally, June 1, 1844B	Bond, Jeremiah, July 13, 1828B
Bemis, Abijah, Sept., 1820B	Bond, Oliver, June 11, 1820B
Bemis, Amos, Sept., 1820B	Bond, Sally, Aug. 9, 1830B
Bemis, Catherine, Nov. 22, 1819B	Bond, Sumner, Sept., 1831B

- Boswith, Lucy, Sept., 1810B
 Boswith, William, Sept., 1810B
 Boyden, Clementine C., Oct. 25, 1857B
 Boyden, Harriett, Aug. 5, 1843B
 Boyden, Samuel, June 1, 1844B
 Boyden, William M., Aug. 7, 1842B
 Briant, Anne, Aug. 12, 1803B
 Briant, Betsey, June 25, 1820B
 Briant, David, Aug. 12, 1803B
 Briant, Emeline, Sept. 27, 1857B
 Briant, Ira, June 25, 1820B
 Brooks, Katie E., Sept. 19, 1866B
 Brown, Alfred, Feb. 28, 1857L
 Brown, Dea H., Feb. 28, 1857L
 Brown, Hannah, May 21, 1810B
 Brown, Jonas, Aug. 12, 1819B
 Brown, Mary E., Feb. 28, 1857L
 Brown, Sophronia, Feb. 28, 1857L
 Browning, Lorinda, Aug. 5, 1820B
 Cady, Rev. Edgar, June 30, 1849L
 Cady, Emily A., June 30, 1849L
 Carruth, Sally, Dec. 19, 1819B
 Caxon, Angeline, Nov. 2, 1856B
 Chase, Elizabeth, May 20, 1810B
 Cole, Amanda, Nov. 1, 1840B
 Cole, Everett L., July 22, 1866B
 Cole, Joshua, Nov. 1, 1840B
 Cole, Lucinda H., June 10, 1855B
 Cole, Lucy C., July 22, 1866B
 Cole, Martha E., Oct. 25, 1857B
 Cole, Mary Ann, June 16, 1855B
 Cole, William E., Aug. 23, 1868B
 Cunningham, Abigail D., Sept. 1, 1844B
 Cunningham, Dilly, May 20, 1810B
 Cunningham, Jonathan, May 20, 1810B
 Cushman, Martin, June 18, 1842B
 Cutler, Stephen, Dec. 2, 1842L
 Day, Eunice, Sept., 1801B
 Dav, Hammond, June 24, 1810B
 Duncan, Sally, May 2, 1835L
 Earle, Philip, July 16, 1809B
 Eaton, Jarvis, Oct. 1, 1842B
 Fay, Charles L., Oct. 25, 1857B
 Flood, Emily (Wood), Aug. 17, 1845B
 Glazier, Jonas, Sept. 13, 1813B
 Glazier, Sally, Nov. 18, 1818B
 Glover, Willard, June 18, 1837L
 Goddard, Elizabeth, Feb. 28, 1857L
 Goodnough, Lucy, Oct. 13, 1819B
 Graton, Charlotte, Aug. 17, 1845L
 Graton, Fanny, Oct. 6, 1861B
 Graton, Thomas, Aug. 17, 1845L
 Green, Xalvia, Feb. 6, 1859B
 Hapgood, Harriet A., Oct. 2, 1853L
 Hapgood, Luther, Oct. 25, 1857B
 Harrington, Annah H., Oct. 29, 1827B
 Harrington, Delia, 1819
 Harrington, Loamini, 1819
 Harrington, Lucy R., Nov. 1, 1834L
 Harrington, Moses, Nov. 1, 1834L
 Harris, Milton, June 18, 1842B
 Harris, Priscilla, Aug. 2, 1827L
 Haskins, Abigail, June 24, 1810B
 Haskins, Mary, May 20, 1810B
 Haskins, Phebe, Sept. 19, 1819B
 Hinds, Amasa, May 7, 1843B
 Hinds, Mary C., May 7, 1843B
 Hobart, John, July 9, 1820B
 Hobart, John, Jr., May 14, 1820B
 Hobert, Otis, Aug. 6, 1837L
 Hobert, Sophronia, Aug. 6, 1837L
 Hosmer, Polly D., Aug. 2, 1840L
 Howard, Lucy J., Nov. 10, 1861B
 Hovey, Angeline H., Aug. 17, 1845L
 Hovey, Rufus, Aug. 17, 1845L
 Hubbard, John, July 29, 1810B
 Jones, Caroline, Oct. 25, 1857B
 Jones, Charles W., Oct. 25, 1857B
 Knapp, Relief, Aug. 22, 1819B
 Kenny, Silas, Aug. 22, 1819B
 Kenny, Mrs. Silas, Aug. 22, 1819B
 King, Charles, Aug. 2, 1856L
 King, Lucy M., Aug. 2, 1856L
 Knight, Hannah, Aug. 6, 1842B
 Lamb, Isaac, Nov. 8, 1818B
 Lamb, Lucinda, Aug. 13, 1842B
 Lamb, Nancy, Aug. 13, 1842B
 Lefavor, Amos, Nov. 25, 1821B
 Lefavor, Henrietta, Nov. 25, 1821B
 Lentell, Jesse V., May 30, 1855L
 Lentell, Louisa R., May 4, 1856L
 Livermore, Adaline, Nov. 1, 1840B
 Livermore, Bradwell, Feb. 28, 1820B
 Livermore, Gratia, Nov. 9, 1834B
 Livermore, Hannah, Nov. 1, 1840B
 Livermore, Mary, Aug. 30, 1835B
 Livermore, Polly, May 7, 1820B
 Livermore, A. Silena, Nov. 9, 1834B
 Lyon, Aaron, Apr. 28, 1822B
 Lyon, Betsey, Apr. 7, 1822B
 Lyon, Lvdia Ann, Aug. 9, 1857B
 Lyon, Nancy, June 10, 1855B
 May, Amasa, Jan. 31, 1819B
 May, Betsey E., July 2, 1842B
 May, Edward, July, 1819B
 May, Samuel, July 2, 1842B
 Monroe, Luther, Jan. 2, 1859B
 Monroe, Mary Ann, Aug. 9, 1857B
 Monroe, Thankful, Nov. 6, 1859B
 Morris, William, July 2, 1842B
 Moulton, John W., Oct. 24, 1857B
 Moulton, Matilda, July 22, 1866B
 Newton, Catherine, May 21, 1810B
 Newton, Catherine, 2d, June 11, 1811B

Newton, Demaris, June 24, 1810B	Snow, Betsey, Jan. 6, 1819B
Newton, Edmund, Nov. 5, 1843B	Snow, Calvin, June 4, 1820B
Newton, Harriett, Aug. 2, 1840B	Snow, George L., July 2, 1842B
Newton, Phebe, Nov. 5, 1843B	Snow, John, Apr. 7, 1822B
Osland, Eliza, July 6, 1862B	Snow, Lucius A., Sept. 4, 1842B
Osland, Horace F., Oct. 25, 1857B	Snow, Polly, June 4, 1820B
Osland, Martha, Nov. 4, 1860B	Snow, Willard, June 4, 1820B
Osland, Samuel C., July 7, 1861B	Spaulding, Julia, Oct. 6, 1861B
Phippen, Eliza, Sept. 1, 1824L	Stone, Emerson, Dec. 2, 1865L
Phippen, George, Sept. 1, 1824L	Thompson, Ann C., June 10, 1860L
Pierce, Samuel, Nov. 2, 1839B	Thompson, Hiram, June 10, 1860L
Pierce, Eliza, Nov. 1, 1840L	Thompson, Lucy, Nov., 1818B
Pond, Elihu, July 4, 1841B	Underwood, Salome R., May 7, 1840L
Prentiss, James, Sept. 13, 1818B	Underwood, Urijah, May 7, 1840L
Prouty, Angeline, July 1, 1855B	
Putnam, Eli, Mar. 16, 1825L	Walker, Dwight, June 6, 1841B
Rogers, Lydia, 1810	Walker, Lois, May 2, 1841B
Sargent, Abigail, Apr. 1841L	Wall, James, Sept., 1828B
Sargent, Edmund M., Feb. 1841B	Ware, Daniel L., Feb. 28, 1846L
Sargent, Horace C., Feb. 7, 1841B	Ware, Eunice, Feb. 28, 1846L
Scott, Elizabeth, Nov. 15, 1857B	Warren, Anna, Oct. 4, 1819B
Sherman, Simon, July 2, 1842B	Warren, William, Sept. 15, 1819B
Smith, Emmons, Dec. 6, 1845L	White, Abby A., Nov. 10, 1861B
Smith, Joel L., Apr. 23, 1836B	Whittiam, July 2, 1842B
Smith, John B., Oct. 3, 1830B	Whittiam, Jeremiah, June 18, 1842B
Smith, Joseph T., May 29, 1836B	Wicker, Mary E., June 4, 1843B
Smith, Mary W., Dec. 6, 1845B	Wicker, George, June 4, 1843B
Smith, Polly, May 28, 1810B	Winslow, Lydia, Sept. 6, 1840B
Smith, Vashti H., Apr. 4, 1841B	Wright, Henry, Jan. 3, 1819B

Although the register gives no note of residence it is known that these members were residents of at least three towns, Spencer, Paxton and Leicester. Indeed, the first clerk of the church lived in Rutland, a fourth town. The families represented by the list were mostly of the great middle class of New England life. Here were farmers, shoemakers, carpenters, and others of like grades, with their households. Not a few non-members were stanch friends and helpers of the church. Generally these families were of christian worth and the homes centers of intelligent, thrifty and aspiring life. No little vigor of brain and brawn, of piety and courage, was essential for the founding and maintenance of a Christian church so far from any civic center in a community so wholly rural.

Under date of July 7, 1819, Jonathan Cunningham conveyed to the church seventy-one rods of land at top of the hill just a little east from his home, also an adjoining strip of land for horsesheds which was altogether over the Spencer bound in Paxton, so really was this church in the far north-east of the town. This site for meeting-house and sheds was granted for \$5. The locality was known as "Jocktown," an

honor of Mr. Cunningham. "Corner lots" in his "town" never passed a low figure. Horse sheds were never built.

The meeting house was erected in 1820, so James Draper, Esq., states in his History of Spencer. Unfortunately there is now no record of procedures in this matter of creating a church property. The account of the conveyance of land is based on an entry in the books of the county found by Mr. Tower in his diligent search for historic truths. The church records date, as shown above, from 1819. But the earliest entry after that day, save in the register, is dated March 27,



OLD JOCKTOWN MEETING HOUSE.

1821, so nothing of building purposes and operations can be gleaned. A society in connection with the church was formed at some now unknown date. Its earliest record now discoverable bears date Feb. 21, 1835. In the church record, Nov., 1834, it is stated that one book had for some years served for the church and the society, that thereby confusion and loss had occurred and an order was taken "to procure a suitable book for records, and that the clerk made a draft of what records the old book contains into the new one when procured." This order was doubtless obeyed so far as the purchase of a

new book is concerned but there is no showing of the "draft of what records the old book" contained. The old book itself cannot be found.

One scrap of history has been incidentally secured. William Warren, grandson of the William Warren of the membership list above, a life-long resident of Paxton and a veteran of the Civil War says his grandfather furnished from his Paxton farm some of the heavy timbers of the meeting-house. This indicates that the lumber for the building was assured by contributions of that order by the various parties interested in the enterprise.

The house was of the plain, simple church architecture common to New England in the early days. It was without spire or tower, a square, unadorned, pine structure, sturdy enough to abide on the wind-swept hill the larger part of a century. No bell ever summoned the scattered worshipers to its sacred courts and hallowing services. Yet it was not unworthy the song often voiced within its walls :

Happy the church, thou sacred place,

The seat of thy Creator's grace ;

Thy holy courts are His abode,

Thou earthly palace of our God,

For He made that "place of His feet glorious."

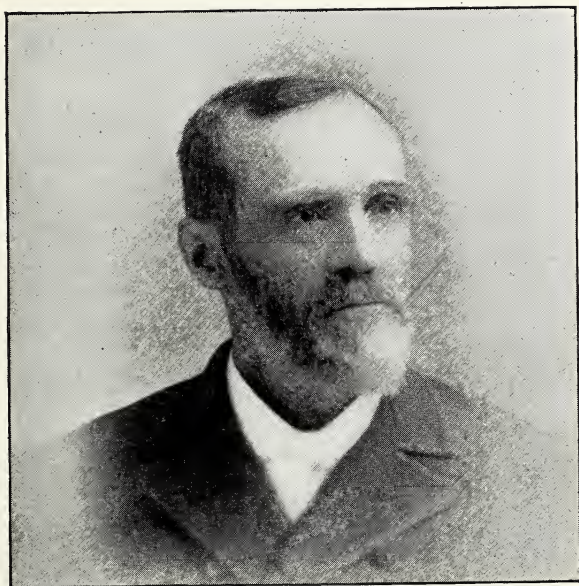
The Rev. Amos Lefavor is named by Mr. Draper as the first minister of this new church. The register shows that Amos Lefavor and Henrietta Lefavor, presumably the wife of Mr. L., became members of the church, November 25, 1821. The above authority also says Mr. Lefavor was ordained in the winter of 1821. The record is silent both as to the call and the ordination of this minister. Aside from the entry of his name in the register there is no occurrence whatever of it until March 12, 1822, where it appears under the copy of a letter of reproof and counsel to a brother who had been broken by the temptation of strong drink.

It may be that Mr. Lefavor was employed directly upon the opening and dedication of the completed house, of which services, alas, there is no account now at hand. Union with the church as a member may have been delayed until the reception and acceptance of a call and the coming of his wife, and then his ordination followed in the winter of 1821 as stated by Mr. Draper. The only indication as to the length of his service is found in the register. He, with his wife, was dismissed by letter, November 6, 1823.

Apparently George Phippen was the next minister. To this Draper agrees. The following item from the records is

of interest as showing oldtime faithfulness in reproof of the clergy:

September, 1824, the church met and passed the following votes, viz : 1st, That the communion be administered by Elder George Phippen, it having been previously omitted on account of the report of his using ardent spirit to excess. 2nd, Brother Phippen and wife presenting themselves for admission into the church. They were received by vote, according to page 17 of the old record.



REV. OTIS COLE.

Evidently that "old record" had value.

Intemperance, rather drunkenness, occasioned much discipline in the earlier years of the church life. There were reasons for such lapses on the part of those who honestly, doubtless, sought the paths of Christian life, yet sadly failed of a consistent walk.

Failures from other causes occurred. The peculiarities of human nature appeared in the membership of this church as elsewhere in Christendom. Friction by mutual impact caused heat. Hasty deed and speech sometimes followed. Stubbornness appeared also, and when unwise steps had been taken

in haste, stubbornness put far off the day of confession and peace. Thus, at one time a committee of the church, made up of good and wise men, John Hobart, David Bryant and Brad-dyll Livermore, reported that after "mature consultation" with a certain brother, he alleged a trouble with another member as to the reason he "had not walked with the church;" the other party was found ready for peace and the former brother then asked the privilege of talking with his fellow churchman once more; this being granted, he "returned to the church, having absented himself two years, confessed his faults, and promised by God's assistance to walk as a brother in the church of Christ."

But intemperance was a chief difficulty. Drinking customs and frequent taverns along the county roads made the temptation to drink a dominant one. The member and the church felt its power to blacken and curse. At 'Bumskit, possibly at a little later day, a hogshead of New England rum was distributed weekly. If in 1822 sales were less at 'Bumskit the other points of distribution kept the general menace potent. Then, as now, the sale and use of intoxicants imperiled common industry and thrift, social life, the home, the church and all Christian purpose and effort. Hence it is not surprising to find that the church record shows disciplinary action in three cases within thirty days, occasioned by drink.

In the first, upon admonishment by the church, there was promise of better things. The promise was broken presently and the party "excluded, according to page 4." Here again the lost record book has indication of its value. Evidently it contained rules of order and procedure by which all action of the organic body was governed.

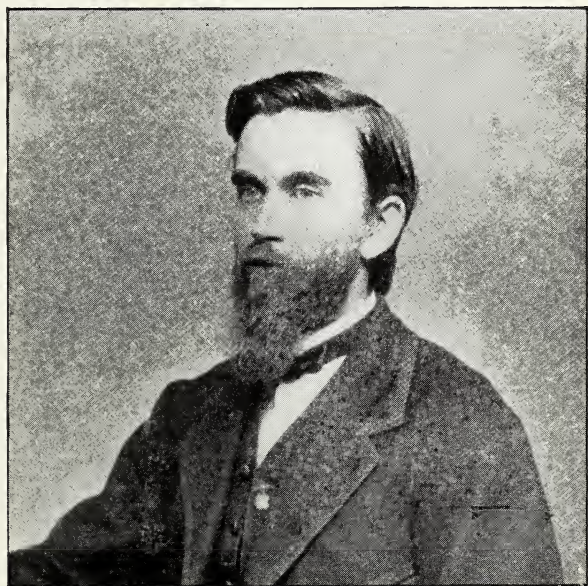
In the second case a letter was written the offending brother by the pastor, Amos Lefavor. The letter, copy preserved by the record, was well written, containing due reference to troublesome reports of intoxication and a loving request for the brother to appear before the church for the satisfying of their minds as to the damaging reports of his wrong doing. Nothing farther is entered in the case. Hence, there is evidence only of Christian watchcare and fidelity unless, indeed, some of the church had been too helpful in spreading the reports which occasioned the pastoral letter.

The third case was more complex. Here a long letter by the pastor opens with full formality:

"The Baptist Church to Mr. ———— :

"Sir—We, the said Church of Christ, consider it our duty to state to you the reasons of our excluding you from our fellowship and communion, by which act we consider you are no

longer a member of this church. The reasons are as follows: You, sir, within a year past have been called on by the church at three different times for the express purpose to satisfy the minds of the church relative to the reports in circulation, which were these: first, that you were known repeatedly to be intoxicated with spirituous liquor; secondly, you were known to visit and continue at the tavern all night to the great disgrace of religion, and the wounding of the feelings of the members of the church. But after much equivocation you confessed your



DANIEL AMASA BALL.

fault, and promised amendment of heart and life; and on this condition you were restored. But to our great surprise within three weeks you were known to be intoxicated again. Soon after this you were known to be with the ungodly world, to visit the tavern for such recreation as we consider inconsistent with our most holy profession."

The letter farther affirms the renewed and repeated effort to bring this wayward brother back to soberness and well-ordered life and the humiliating failure thereof. Then with due admonishment and kindly phrase the wanderer is left

without the closed door. The letter is an admirable one. Beyond its ecclesiastical value it gives a real, though pathetic view of the neighborhood life of Jocktown nearly a hundred years ago. Drinking customs prevailed widely. The power thereof was equal to the breaking of much noble manhood, the untold sorrow of woman and the lament and hindrance of the church of God. This particular neighborhood was not peculiar in this matter. Far from it. An account book of about that date, once in hand, but now unfortunately burned, gave full and startling evidence that many at the center of Spencer, and of good homes, largely bought intoxicants at the store, where accounts were kept in the said book. Strong drink still afflicts town and church by bruising men and women and ruining homes, but "the former times were not better than these."

The party to whom the letter, of which a part was above given, had strong friends in the church. These not only helped him at the time of discipline as they could, but afterwards so spoke in his favor, with regret for the severity of disciplinary action as to occasion the appointment of a committee to discuss the matter with them. No evidence appears that the excluded man was ever re-admitted. Later he did occasionally attend service and appeared as a man of sober and devout life. The faithfulness of his friends may have borne good fruit. All the parties are not beyond interview.

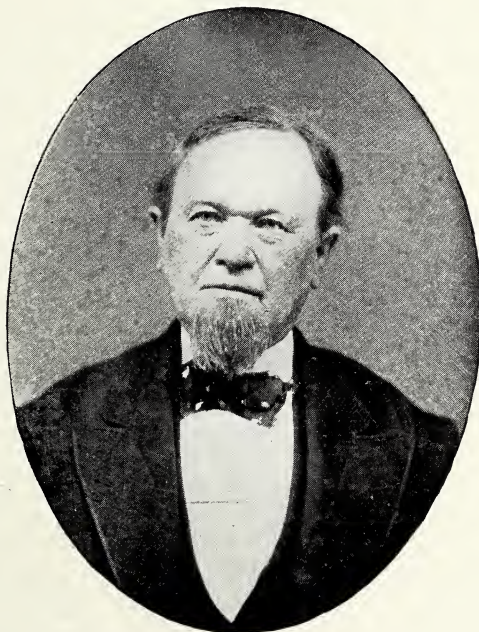
Later there were some lamentable breaks in the general harmony of the church. Similar discord appeared in the society, insomuch that many withdrew from time to time; in one case the minister who had become a member of the society withdrew, apparently because his ideas were not permitted to prevail. Such lack of harmony among the helpers of the church were not altogether unusual. The parish records of an adjoining town show very frequent withdrawal from the parish in certain years. Doubtless such action at both places was held a fit protest to measures considered to be unwise and harmful.

Such breaks in unity of vision and spirit in the church itself are more important. Unity is primal in the church of Christ. For this the Master prayed in the night of His Passion. Some of these divisions at Jocktown ultimated in the loss by the church of valuable families. Just where the fault may have been and the real responsibility cannot now be determined. History records verities as they may be discovered. That is its office. It has also the burden of effort to reproduce the life of the past with something of its variety of movement. But history with all its endeavor cannot fully show the actual

conditions nor reveal the full thought of actors long silent in the grave. The mantle of Christian charity can, and must, be spread over the perceived errors and the unexplainable deeds. With these reflections the disciplinary activities of the church at North Spencer are dismissed.

Returning a little, another extract from the records may be of interest to some. March 27, 1821, a public meeting of the church was called as follows:

“Notice is hereby given to the First Baptist church in Spencer and to all those of the society who feel to unite, and



SAMUEL BOYDEN

advise with them in choosing a committee to give deeds of their pews in the meeting house in Spencer, and to transact other secular business, that they may unite and agree in peace and harmony—to meet at their meeting house in Spencer on Saturday, the 31st instant at 3 o'clock p. m., to act upon the following articles, viz:

“1st. To choose a moderator of the meeting.

"2nd. To choose a committee to give deeds of the pews to such persons as have purchased pews, or may purchase them. Said deeds to be given in behalf of the church.

"3d. To see in what manner the meetings of the church for secular business shall be warned the ensuing year.

"4th. To see in what way they will raise money for the support of the gospel with them this year.

"5th. To transact such other business as may come before them.

JONAS GLAZIER, Clerk."

This somewhat copious portion gives a real glimpse of the life of the church in those early days. The meeting was duly held and Bradwell Livermore, David Bryant and Jonas Brown were made the committee to issue deeds of the pews. Mr. Livermore's name is given in register and church record as above, but in the records of the society it is Braddyll, and as his son, Braddyll Livermore, Jr., was for some years the society's clerk, and doubtless knew how to spell the name, the latter orthography is the true one. A name so unusual and resonant is worthy of accurate record.

Draper gives George Phippen's term of service as 1827 and 1828. The church knew him as pastor in 1824, but there is nothing to show the length of his stay. Because of the loss of an early record there are ten years of which there can now no account be given, save that Draper gives Edward Kenney as minister in 1829 to 1830. With the renewal of records in 1834, Moses Harrington appears as minister and apparently remained in service until early in 1837. By vote of the church, June 18, 1837, Willard Glover was accepted as minister. He resigned the office in March, 1838. During the succeeding summer, Winthrop Morse filled the desk one-half the time. The winter passed without preaching. Draper says, however, Elder Luther Goddard of Worcester preached occasionally in 1838-'39.

August 9, 1840, Urijah Underwood was ordained and recognized as pastor. An ecclesiastical council was convened. Mr. Underwood was duly examined, and the "council voted unanimously that they were satisfied with Brother Underwood's Christian experience, call to the ministry, and view of gospel doctrine," Revs. A. S. Lyon, Luther Goddard, Leonard Tracy, S. B. Swain and John Walker shared the ordination service.

A mutual ecclesiastical council was convoked by the church in 1842, for the adjustment of certain matters of discipline and controversy. The council continued in session "two entire days," made a lengthy report and evidently rend-

ered some helpful service, though not all the ills were healed. The long record of this council may well be left in silence.

Elder Underwood and his wife, asked and received letters of dismission and commendation in March, 1842. Probably his labor ceased somewhat earlier, as an interval between his work and the coming of Mr. Cutler in which a few faithful ones met on the Lord's Day to read the Word and to pray is most clearly remembered by some. These assemblings for prayer and conference graciously prepared the way for the awakening and "times of refreshing" that came with the early service of the new minister.

The Rev. Stephen Cutler began labor in the early summer of 1842. A council was called and Mr. Cutler was ordained in accord with Baptist usage. Clergy present: Moses Harrington, moderator; A. S. Lyon, scribe; E. G. Perry and W. C. Richards. Elder Cutler's service was greatly blessed. Many were added to the church and good influence spread widely.

This "watch meeting" item from the record is interesting: "Saturday, December 31, 1842. The church met this evening with some others and held a prayer meeting and a good degree of religious feeling appeared. It seemed that the Lord was about to revive His work. The meeting was continued till they bid farewell to the old year and greeted the new one in."

Mr. Cutler's stay was more protracted than that of any other minister of the church. It was largely successful, continuing until October, 1849. At least that is the date of dismission given in the register, the only showing accessible. In passing from his work it may not be unwise to attempt to reproduce a Sabbath of those remembered years.

It is Sunday morning in June, 184 . The church folk are gathering. Already groups are about and near the open doors of the meeting house. Horses are tethered in the church yard, few of them having any shelter from the full sunshine. Devout men and women, fathers and mothers in Israel, are reverently taking their wonted seats in the sanctuary they love. Youth lingers about the doorways for yet other admiring glances and mutual speech. The choir rehearsal of the morning ends, though no bell has indicated the hour of service or the coming of the man of God. It is quietly said in the vestibule and at the doors that the minister is about to give out the first hymn. Those still standing hasten to their seats, and worship has begun.

The Rev. Stephen Cutler is in the lofty pulpit, high, if not lifted up. A large man, florid of face and of pleasant bearing. With an inclusive survey of his people he has essayed his morning task. The choir takes up the hymn helpfully. Mean-

while the sun is ever increasing the high temperature of the day. Windows are open wide. The fields with their greenery spread away, away. Bird songs are without, while psalmody is resonant within. The Sabbath peace is on hill and plain, on wooded slopes and the valleys between. It is the Lord's Day and the "Beauty of the Lord" is without and within.

Scripture lessons follow the hymn. The Proverbs—a chapter on the high worth of wisdom was often selected by Mr. Cutler—furnish a selection from the Old Testament. Some rich portion from the Gospel or Epistle is also read. Then spreading his hands the minister says in holy tone, "Let us pray:" The congregation rise devoutly to stand during the long prayer. A few of the aged quietly resume their seats after the opening ascriptions and petitions. Before the "Amen" at the close many others by frequent shifting of posture indicate a willingness to sit, which led later to the abandonment of the reverent custom of standing during prayer, save that for a longer time the people stood for the short prayer at the close of the sermon till even that gave way to the growing love of ease. But on this old time day in June the congregation generally kept to the ancient observance and at the "Amen" there was a rustle of garments as seats were swiftly taken. Then with return of comfort to the body many at least took fresh note of the beauty without while awaiting another hymn.

"And ever and anon the breeze,

Sweet-scented with the new-mown hay,

Turned o'er the hymn book's fluttering leaves

That in the window lay."

The minister is robed for a summer day. He is coatless. A flowing robe of light cloth drapes gracefully his ample form and adds dignity by apparent increase of stature. Half-way from desk to choir in the center of the House, sits Colonel Willard Snow of Paxton, brother-in-law of Honest John Davis, some three hundred pounds of stalwart manhood. His massive frame supports a similar costume. The manly appearance of both preacher and hearer is enhanced by this simple preparation for comfort.

Colonel Snow's son, tall and strongly-built like his sire, in the dress of a gentleman sits nobly in the same pew. Father and son make a splendid picture in memory. Just in front is the well-filled Bryant pew. Still forward are Aaron Lyon and his faithful wife, long to be known after his departure as "Mother," or "Grandma," Lyon. Deacons Hinds and Cole are in their places. The Cole pew is full with Deacon Hinds

and wife and her sister with her husband, gallant Captain Baker of the New Bedford whaling fleet, now on shore for his wedding and honeymoon. Too soon after he failed, like many others, brave and true, to return from the mystery of the sea.

In the square corner-pew yonder is Samuel Pierce, the clerk of the church. How square and severe that face; somber face, and a somber man, yet a real lover of the church and its Lord. His stately wife, strong-voiced and musical, is in the choir. The Walkers, Newtons, Balls, Boydens, the Bellows, Monroe, Knight, Smith, Prouty, Randall, Boice, Wilson, Barr, Scott and Ware families, and other names memory fails to bring back, filled the house with a worthy humanity, and by devotion, prayer and song, by character and sainthood helped to make the meeting house that day a place of blessing.

The sermon is not forgotten, albeit the pen has so wandered since the closing of the prayer. It may not, however, be characterized further than to say it met the need of that June morning, assuring edification in some good measure to all. Sunday school for half an hour swiftly passed. Boys and girls received faithful tuition in the things that make for godly living and Christian character. A bit of free movement in the air, a trifling lunch for the juniors, and genial speech among the older folk, brought all to the afternoon meeting. In this brevity alone changed the order of the morning. Brevity ruled somewhat because it was not usual, and is not, for people, or for ministers, to be unconscious that dinner is welcome even on Sunday. Beside, now and then, an impatient horse would call to his master, in equine fashion, for speedy change from "post meat" to open pasturage and the running brook.

Possibly there was a later social service. Perhaps a "sing" by the choir. Such were those days of the past. A few of the children alone remain to recall them. Minister, deacons and clerk long since went away. Their forms sleep in the dust. The devout elders and most of the youth are fast held in like absence and slumber. The choir leader, his honors and burdens, things "gone forever and ever by;" the violinist, the players of 'cello, flute, clarinet and melodeon, with all, or nearly all, the sweet voiced men and women who helped them to fill the house of God with melody and praise are silent in the dust also.

The day is a memory. Its sacred services, Christian hymns, Scripture lessons, sermons, prayers, Sunday school hour, its smiles and tears, its holy calm, its heaven-like peace, its unseen power, have not ceased to be. These abide. More, minister and people will meet again. The olden days will be remembered and their real worth appear.

The Rev. E. Cady was the next servant of the church. He tarried a single year. In 1851 and '52, Elder M. Harrington once more filled the desk. Elder Jones preached from May to November in 1853. Apparently the house was closed several winters about this time. The record says of both years of Elder Harrington, "closed his labors in the fall." The same essentially is recorded of Elder Jones, probably the Rev. J. D. E. Jones of Worcester, who later served much in the gospel at this church. The record also says: "In the winter of 1853 and 1854, preaching in schoolhouse occasionally by Elder John Walker. In the summer of 1854, preaching by several individuals secured by the agent of the Massachusetts Baptist Convention."

These entries indicate the drift away from North Spencer, which was not arrested and which brought later the closing scenes of church life at Jocktown. But in the winter of 1854 the Rev. Jesse V. Lentell began labor and in 1855 was duly examined and ordained by a council, of which the Rev. H. C. Tingley of Holden was moderator, and the Rev. D. W. Faunce of Worcester was scribe. Dr. Faunce, father of President Faunce of Brown University, also preached the ordination sermon. Mr. Lentell closed his labors in May, 1857.

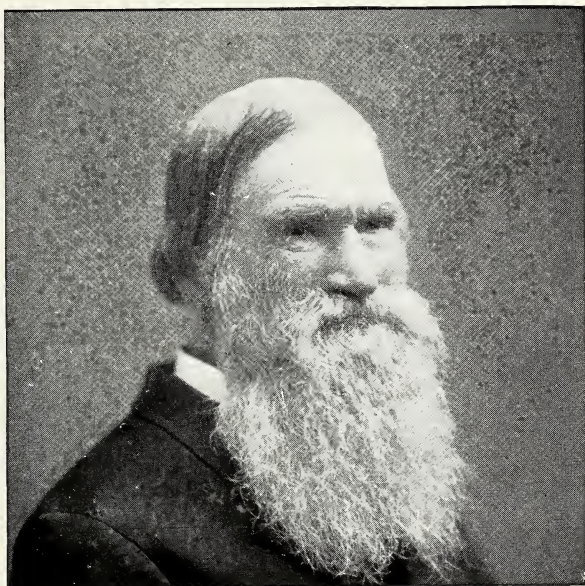
In the same month Brother Joseph Barber, a student, began a brief period of helpful service. In September a gracious revival work opened and meetings of much interest and power followed. These, save on the Sabbath, were held from house to house in different neighborhoods. Among those added to the church as the fruit of this awakening were the late Daniel A. Ball, widely known and beloved—his wife, who is still living, and Clementine C., daughter of the late Samuel Boyden, now and for long time known as Mrs. Emerson Stone. Also, Martha E. Cole, who later married the Rev. W. W. Smith of the Methodist Episcopal church and early finished her work, dying in Newburyport in 1863.

Mr. Barber closed his labor with the year, and on the first Sabbath of 1858, Elder F. G. Brown came to continue the sacred work. He served, in part at least, for the next two years. It appears also that he baptised those who were received during the stay of Mr. Barber. Mr. Brown resided in Worcester. December 12, 1858, Elder Ball came and labored until March 6, following, then Elder Brown resumed the desk.

In 1860, Hiram Thompson of Worcester was ordained as minister of this church, but closed his service the next March. The Rev. J. R. Stone, of Worcester also, was then engaged as a supply. Under date of November, 1862, the record has this entry: "Rev. J. R. Stone and other ministers have supplied the

desk for the past six months." Nothing further appears until November, 1864. Then the Rev. J. D. E. Jones had preached six months. In 1865 the Rev. Charles E. Simmons "supplied the desk." December 2, 1865, this interesting entry was made in the record:

"Covenant meeting, the third for the year. Had quite a refreshing season; after the devotional exercises of the meeting, Emerson Stone related his Christian experience and presented a



DEACON JOSHUA COLE.

letter of commendation from the United States Christian Commission, and having been baptized and united with a Baptist church in the state of New York and said that he had a letter of dismission from said church some years ago which he had lost, voted to receive him (Emerson Stone) as a member of this church.

JOSHUA COLE, Ch. Clk."

Elder Jones seems to have served in 1866. The next year Revs. T. W. Clark and H. R. Green supplied the pulpit. In 1868, Revs. Clark and Brown; 1869, Rev. Mr. Tandy; 1870,

Rev. C. A. Skinner ; November 27, 1872, it is recorded that "students from Worcester Academy" had served during the season and that the church was then closed for the winter.

This pathetic record of the waning life of a church now reaches its climax. In the ensuing spring steps were taken for the sale of the meeting house. Before giving account of that matter it will be well to gather up a few other threads essential to this history.

David Bryant was the first deacon. Later Amos Bemis was made his associate in office and service. In 1842, Joshua Cole was elected. The records fail to speak of the decease of Deacon Bryant, but it probably occurred about the time of the election just noted. Either his death or disability led to the selection of another for this service. A little later, Deacon Bemis having joined the Methodist Episcopal church, Amasa Hinds and Isaac Ball were made deacons. Deacon Hinds removed to East Brookfield in 1852. Served the Baptist church there in the same office most acceptably, then after a few years of infirmity passed to his reward August 10, 1881. He was a good man and his memory is precious. Deacon Ball's membership seems to have ended in 1851. Of his late life nothing is at hand. Deacon Herman Brown came to this church by letter from another where election to "the office of a deacon" had occurred. After a few years of excellent service he and his wife were commended by letter to the church in West Acton. Deacon Cole continued in service until the disbanding of the church.

It would be a pleasure to give also the names of the choir leaders of all these years. It is not possible; the records name none of them as such. Samuel Boyden so served for many a year, faithfully and well. Joseph T. Smith, N. A. Monroe, Rufus Hovey and Daniel A. Ball, each had a term of service. Others in earlier and later years must have had a place also. Of all of these and of their many helpers in the noble work of Christian song it can be said "their record is on high."

A Sunday school was one of the active departments of the church. No records of the school have been preserved. Hence it can only be affirmed that Sunday school work had place from 1840 and earlier unto the end. Some of the men and women of these later days have precious memories of the school and no slight debt for early instruction in good things.

Hitherto nothing has been said concerning the financial support assured the several ministers of this now historic church. The data upon which to base any showing is very meagre. The object of the society already named as existent in the early days was the care of all prudential burdens of the

common enterprise—the maintenance of a Christian church in the neighborhood. Rural conditions determined forms and activities. The society, as has been noted, acted with the church in 1821, in the sale and conveyance of the pews of the meeting house. Because of the loss of the first record book jointly used by church and society, nothing more of society matters can be learned earlier than the year 1835.

At a legally called meeting in February of that year it was determined “to employ Moses Harrington for the ensuing year” as minister, “if he can be obtained and if his support can be obtained.” It was also ordered that money for such purpose be raised by subscription. A prudential committee was chosen. Its duty was to provide minister, sexton, fuel, lights, etc. Willard Snow (probably not Col. Willard), lived in Paxton, but near the meeting house on the place latterly owned and occupied by Mr. Anson Williams. Col. Willard Snow lived in an ample farm house on the Holden road, beyond Paxton Center. These namesakes were both good men and true.

Reuben Cunningham and Daniel Ball constituted this first prudential committee, of which a record remains. With them William Warren was to serve as collector and treasurer. Of success or failure there is no record. Presumably success in some measure was attained, as Elder Harrington served the church that year and the following one.

Presently the society went to pieces and a new one was formed. Upon petition of nine legal voters of Spencer, Leicester and Paxton to Braddyll Livermore, Esq., with formal assurance of organization as a religious society connected with the First Baptist church in Spencer, a warrant for a meeting was granted and the same was held in due order April 13, 1839, Amos Bemis, moderator, and Braddyll Livermore, Jr., clerk. At a little later meeting of the new society “twenty dollars” were appropriated for preaching. Of any other provision for the year nothing is on record by society or church. For several years small amounts were thus provided by society action.

In November, 1844, a subscription for the support of Elder Stephen Cutler was spread upon the records of the society. This amounted to \$187.00. Horace Knight led the list with \$15.00. Joseph Briant was next with \$12.00. Then Daniel Ball and Willard Snow, \$10.00 each. Amasa Hinds, \$8.00. Several at six, more at five dollars, then with lesser sums, fifty cents in one case, the list was filled out. The next spring a bargain was made with Mr. Cutler “to supply our pulpit one year, from the first of April next for \$200.00, if we can raise the sum by subscription.” Beyond this eight men “guaran-

teed to Mr. Cutler that he should receive one hundred and fifty dollars from them if it could not be raised by subscription. Joinedly and severally that sum of money they would pay and did guarantee it to the said Mr. Cutler and the same he did agree to." Apparently the subscription amounted to \$160.00, though it is not clear that the minister received as much. Of the guarantee nothing more is recorded. Here, however, is the first real showing of the salary paid at Jocktown. At the most in these two years the stipend was less than \$200.00.

In 1844, April 20, the society "voted to paint and repair the meeting house outside and in" and to try by subscription to raise \$150.00 for that purpose. Something more than this was secured and the work was done. In this subscription list Lawson Ball, brother of Daniel Isaac, appears with a pledge of ten dollars. Mr. Lawson Ball was a man of feeble health, but an earnest Christian and a most intense advocate of liberty and hater of American slavery. His life here was brief. He left a priceless legacy of personal worth to those who loved him and the church.

Another matter of special interest appears in the recorded history of 1846. A warrant was issued for a meeting of the society to act on a legacy of twenty-five dollars "by the last will and testament of David Prouty." This money was "bequeathed to said society to be laid out in books for the Sabbath school, which has been duly paid by the executor of said deceased." No record of this meeting appears, but as afterward annually a librarian was elected, it is probable that all necessary action was taken in view of this thoughtful beneficence from a citizen of Spencer, who was not a member of the church or society, and who was probably an occasional worshiper only.

Returning to the matter of ministerial support a vote, under date of March 3, 1857, "to sustain preaching" is found. A committee was then sent to the Rev. J. V. Lentell, at that time the minister, to see if he could be retained. The committee reported his willingness to stay another year for \$350.00. Whereupon the society "voted to keep Mr. Lentell."

This probably is the largest estimate made by the church for a year's service of its minister in the half century of its life. In some later years after the remodeling of the meeting house, when regular services were omitted during the winter, a larger proportionate amount was paid. In those years the record indicates the rule of better business methods in the work of the society. Monthly payments of subscriptions to church funds were sought and treasurer's accounts duly balanced are spread upon the journal year by year.

But at the utmost no great inducements were proffered at this rural church to a "hireling ministry."

No complaints from the clergy of inadequate support are found. Possibly the many unwritten pages of the story hold some requests for larger stipends and nobler showing of liberality. The society records evidently omit much of the history that was making in the years. The church record is mostly silent concerning the questions of ministerial support and general finance. Evidently ministers lived carefully as did the people. Expenses were not severe in the community. Small incomes met common needs.

During the term of Elder Lentell agitation for repairs and improvements of the meeting house began to be forceful. This ripened in action by the society :

"Voted to repair the meeting house.

Voted to get new windows for the pulpit, get new pews, and have a cupola.

Voted to fix the gallery on Mister Cole's plan.

Voted to choose a committee of five to make all necessary arrangements."

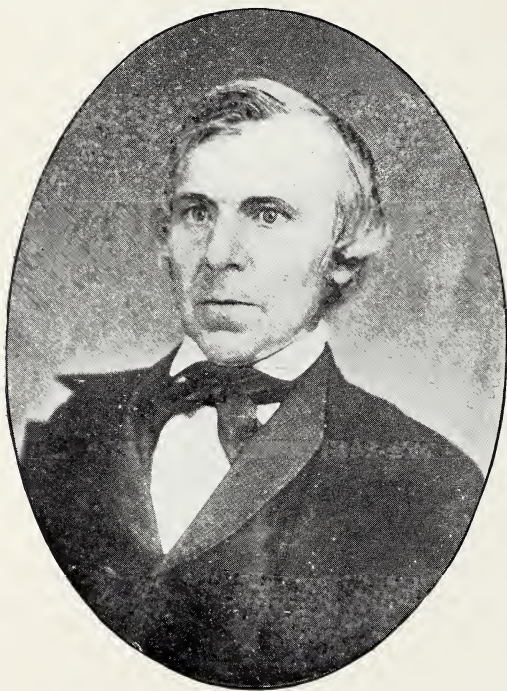
I. V. Lentell, Dea. Cole, Samuel Boyden, S. H. Cunningham and Dwight Walker were this committee of five. Harvey Prouty, Erastus Sanderson and Lory Livermore were chosen "to apprise the pews." One month later votes to reconsider had place, with early adjournment. A week later Mr. Lentell withdrew from the society and in the same month closed his labor with the church.

Nothing further as to repairs and alterations of the house seems to have been done until the next September. Then the society ordered a committee of three to study the house, fix upon plans and "report at some future meeting."

In October this committee reported a plan which was adopted, though many modifications were made during the progress of the work as seemed wise to the committee on repairs. Joshua Cole, Josiah Lyon and Samuel Boyden constituted the committee on plans and O. F. Eaton, J. Cole and Zadock Pike the committee on repairs. Mr. Eaton was the son-in-law of Dwight Walker.

The estimated cost of the repairs and alterations proposed was \$300. Samuel Boyden was duly chosen to collect this amount. The report of his work does not appear. The account of bills paid for the remodeling of the house shows an outlay of nearly \$400. Evidently Mr. Boyden succeeded admirably in the effort to raise money for this renewing of the House of the Lord.

The re-opening and consecration on the ninth of October, 1858, with sermon by Elder F. G. Brown of Worcester was an occasion of much interest. The house had been greatly freshened and improved. The exterior showed new paint and blinds at the windows. Within the high pulpit with its background of heavy, red draping was no more. The high galleries had vanished also. A new pulpit, new choir loft, new pews fashioned for comfort from the ample lumber of



AMASA HINDS

the old uncomfortable ones were ready for devout occupancy. Newly plastered walls and ceiling combined with the other appointments and furnishings to make a pleasing auditorium.

After the service of the dedication day Samuel Boyden offered the new sittings for sale, the pews having been previously appraised at ten dollars each. The results of sale were not recorded. The old pews were duly appraised before any change was made. This was faithfully done by com-

petent men : James Draper, Harvey Prouty and Foster Bisco. The values were slight, ranging from thirty cents to one dollar and eighty cents per pew. "Thirty-six pews at \$37." About the same number appeared in the improved auditorium, and as nearly four hundred dollars were expended in the changes made it will readily be admitted that the new appraisal of ten dollars a pew was not unreasonable.

It will be remembered by some that much money for this church was raised for many years by social assemblies, fairs, suppers. The funds so gathered were most acceptable although at times some excess of youthful exuberance and playfulness led the thoughtful to hesitate at further proposals of that order, great as were the needs of the church. Probably here may be found the reason of a vote passed at the time of re-opening :

"Voted not to open the house for singing schools and fairs." A vote of the society. The subsequent prosperities and the pathetic waning after a very few years of the strength of the church has already been noted. The task of setting forth the sale of the meeting house and the closing of church activities remains. It is not a pleasant task. Shadow and regret are present. The funeral of a church is a somber thing. The demise of this organic body and the attending incidents of the closing of its sacred services and doors furnish no exception. Men, women and children loved this rural church. Its fellowship and communion had been a delight to many who had passed in the mellow ripeness of years to the communion of the saintly in Heaven. Mourners had found divine comfort at its humble altar. Great inspirations and enthusiasm had come to young men and maidens, to sturdy man and elect women who knew the hard, daily struggle of human life. Fathers and mothers had given thanks to God for their fair children and prayed often that they might be built into His church before the fires of sin should burn and destroy. The meeting house was sacred and dear. The years that brought decay and need for renewal of this and that brought also the hallowing increase of associations, memories and benefits. Friendships and loves grew under the shadow of the house and within the charmed circle of its goodly fellowship.

These gracious values and attractions had not prevailed against the steady drift of families, as well as individuals, from all the neighborhoods whence the friends of the church came. Even the quickening of the spirit in the awakening and conversion of those who gave large promise of beneficent life failed to change the tendencies that presently brought a

rapid lessening of the congregation and of the membership. The common needs pressed the most faithful to removal of residence and the choice of other church relations and activities.

It is not easy to discern at this distance the pathos attendant on the ever-lessening group of those who stayed unto the end. They must have missed in those days the loved and sainted who had gone to the heavenly sanctuary, missed too the able helpers, men and women, removed to other churches, though needed there more and more, missed singer and song, the Sunday school teacher, the ready speaker and the open hand and purse, missed the greeting and the smile, the silent presence and the look of peace and amity.

So the weeks went by, and still the thinning of the ranks continued. The vacant chair, the empty seats are eloquent. The silence of pew on pew where none sit is profound. Slowly and sadly came the admission of necessity, sentiment could silence wisdom no longer. Society and church reached the unwelcome conclusion, the property must be sold, while yet there are a few able to devise and execute what may be essential to an honorable closing of a half-century of interesting, useful, blessed, ecclesiastical life. A joint committee of church and society carried out faithfully the matured plans. Joshua Cole, Hiram P. Bemis and Calvin P. Woodbury acted for the society and the first two for the church also.

Action was harmonious. The meeting house was sold to Mr. Daniel Green, although nothing is given on this point in the report of the committee. That report is as follows :

Spencer, September 4, 1877.

The undersigned, a committee chosen by the North Spencer Baptist church and society to sell and convey the property belonging to the said church and society, report as follows, viz :

Amount of property sold	\$269.20
Received from L. Sewing Society	6.00
	<hr/>
	\$275.20
Paid pew holders	81.00
Paid Baptist Home Missions	132.00
Paid for advertising, appraising pews and committee services	62.25
	<hr/>
	\$275.25

Sent the communion service, Bible and hymn book, the Sabbath school library, and singing books, the Baptismal robes and contribution boxes to the Baptist Home Mission society.

The said committee respectfully submits the above report to the clerks of said church and society.

JOSHUA COLE

H. P. BEMIS

CALVIN P. WOODBURY,

Committee.

Mr. Green, who thus became the proprietor of the meeting house, was an eccentric man. He probably had only good motives in making such a purchase. It is said he essayed to have meetings and that some were held. Later he sold the house to the late Mr. John Norton in whose possession it served for storage of farm products. More recently it passed to the hands of Mr. Barclay, who razed the ancient building, moved the material to his farm and rebuilt it in place of his farm barn, which had been burned. Haply it may now complete its century and more. Its earlier history was one of honor in the service of man. The later is not dishonorable. A barn is by no means ignoble. Barns have served as temples of divine worship. It has been said that some of the early meetings of the First Baptist church were held in Jonathan Cunningham's barn. There can be no unmeasured regret at this transformation of the meeting house, which came after it was no longer needed as a house of praise and prayer.

Still the sunlight falls on the hill at Jocktown. But the glory has departed. It might now be named Ichabod. The region as well as the meeting house hill seems desolate. Yet those who know the days that have been may still find the hill populous. To them the sacred doors swing wide again. The saintly company sit in the pew as of yore. Under the high pulpit Elder Cutler with solemn mein breaks the bread, and pours the ruddy wine for the Lord's supper, reads the Passion words of the Gospel and invokes the hallowing presence of the crucified. The deacons reverently bear plate and cup to those who in sweet, meditative silence enjoy again the Holy Sacrament of the Christian church.

In side pew and gallery sit also the sobered youth of the old time homes. They look on the solemn scene and wonder. Wonder, and question when they may share the sacred mystery on which they gaze. Nay, the vision fades. The hill is deserted. Not even the dust of the dead is there. No burials were ever in that churchyard. Desolation broods the hill-top. The mind alone holds the past and counts its treasures.

This sketch shows only in part a worthy history. The First Baptist church in Spencer is of the past. Its records are preserved by the present Baptist church of the town. Copies of the records of church and society have been sent to the rooms of the Antiquarian Society at Worcester.

GLIMPSSES OF NORTH SPENCER LIFE.

The Baptist meeting-house at Jocktown, as long as it was the home of a church, served also as the center of the social, not civic, life of many families, especially of those whose industrial center was at Bumskit. To note some phases and incidents of that life, which has almost wholly ceased to be, may not be an idle task. Bumskit was more than the little group of dwellings inclusive of a tavern, a store and a boot factory, appeared to a stranger. The ferment of real vitality was there. The name has an aboriginal flavor. Mr. Tower, after inquiry, became satisfied that this name was primal for the place now generally known as North Spencer. The latter was given, probably, by action of the government when it established a postoffice at this part of the town. The name Bumskit is evidently an abbreviated form of Asnebumskit, a name given by the Indians to the hill in Paxton, lately purchased for a public park by Senator George F. Hoar, and said to be the second highest land in Worcester County. Bumskit is on the old county road from Worcester to Hardwick, an historic road made famous because built through the instrumentality of the celebrated General Timothy Ruggles of Hardwick. It was once a much traveled road, and known as the "cheese route," because the best cheese of the county passed to market from New Braintree and Barre by this highway. Besides the heavy teaming in each direction, large droves of cattle, sheep, pigs, turkeys and other live stock went over this road to Boston market. A daily stage coach passed to and from Worcester.

Among my earliest memories these olden stages have a share. For a brief time there were three coaches a day. Their arrival was an event. The burly drivers turned their four-in-hands to the door of the hostelry with lordly flourish as though the work of a coachman was fine as aught on earth. The bustling grooms caught the falling reins and directly led the smoking steeds stableward and put fresh horses in their place. Meanwhile passenger and driver snatched a hasty meal in the tavern dining hall and soon the stage was off over the hills for the next halting.

The tavern at Bumskit, as I knew it in my boyhood, was kept by the late Jonas Wilson. He was a stirring, talkative man of pleasing address and no little ready business force. His widow—second wife—is living, active in mind, but much enfeebled in body, and full of memories of North Spencer, though of a later day than the stage coaches. One of the drivers of those days is now resident at South Spencer, Charles D. Gale. He drove over the “cheese route” when drinking customs were seldom questioned, yet it is affirmed that he was never intoxicated and used no tobacco. At ninety-three, hale and vigorous, he reaps the high reward of temperate habits.

The old tavern still stands, fast going to decay. The village sign and post disappeared long, long, ago. The store



PRESENT SCHOOLHOUSE AT NORTH SPENCER.

which joined the tavern at the north end, making a continuous and somewhat imposing front, was moved away or taken down, perhaps forty years since, possibly after it ceased to serve Captain Isaac Prouty as annex to his boot shop when his growing business, in which his sons, Lewis W. and George P., my schoolmates, were partners, was transferred to the new

quarters at the center, which, in turn, was later left for more capacious housing at the present "big shop."

In this now missing extension of the old tavern, Mr. Wilson for many years kept a country store. There the neighbors found dry and West India goods, hardware, candies, notions and general family supplies. This business went on after the doors of the tavern were closed. The store, instead of the bar-room was the gathering place, the news center of the village life. There stories were told, there gossip was fresh and forceful. Opposite the tavern stood the rangy stage barn with its long, open shed, and roadside yard in front with its old fashioned wooden pump showing ever its stiff, awkward handle. I well remember one of the hostlers, a youth known as Lewis Newton, now living in age and weakness at East Brookfield. One day a gentleman stopped for dinner, driving his fine horse direct to the stable yard where I, an eager boy, watched the movement of the hour. "Mine host" Wilson, intent and fluent, proffered hospitality and noting his guest's solicitude for his horse, said heartily: "the boy will give him good care," then sharply calling "the boy" to his work, led the way to the house. I see now the play of Newton's face as the landlord's courteous "mister" to his guest came over the street to us and I heard the hostler saying to himself, "I wonder if anybody will ever call me, mister!" Such ferments have place in youthful minds. By them ambition is awakened and hardship and hindrance become helps to nobler living.

At the north end of the stage barn was a slaughter house. This was mostly used for dressing veal for the Boston market. Mr. Wilson gathered the calves from the farms all about. As was customary then, the calves were twice bled before being killed. White veal was demanded. Cruelty to animals had slight consideration. Mr. Wilson simply followed the custom of the times when he freely bled the unoffending calves and then bound their four legs together so they could do no other than lie on the floor of his wagon as he bore them to the place where they yielded their lives. The world does move towards the light. Optimism is warrantable. Some cruelties have ceased under the sun. The above abominations are of the past, not of today. Other cruelties must follow them.

The veal went to Boston in a huge wagon. This wagon was covered in all its length by cotton cloth supported by stout wood bows. Any original white of the cloth had given place to a rusty brown, enriched by mud stains from the road and various other contributions received on the frequent trips from Bumskit to Boston.

Returning the freight was goods for the store and liquors for the tavern. Each Tuesday came thus to the village a hogshead of New England rum. This, it is said, "was high proof rum" to be diluted with water at Bumskit, the landlord shrewdly saving the cartage on water. "Thirty-three gallons" could be drawn from the hogshead and the like amount of water turned in and then the standard required by law be maintained. At first the mixture would not be clear, but milky in appearance. Left for about a week it would become clear enough for sale at the bar. The thirty-three gallons drawn could, of course, be treated in like manner. The hogshead of rum thus extended was, it is said, a week's supply for the patrons of that bar, the traveling public and the people of the surrounding country in the radius of a few miles.

Much might be noted of the material and moral ruin consequent on such generous distribution of N. E. rum. Names of topers, inveterate, hard drinkers, might be given. Families were broken and scattered. Forceful young men drank up their patrimony and ended life in the poorhouse or were found dead in some hiding-place, with an empty jug beside them. But if one tried putting aside due respect for names once honorable, it would be impossible to tell the miseries resultant from the misuse of a hogshead of rum a week. Alas, in how many places has there been occasion for the bitter cry :

"Rum ! rum ! What hast thou done ?

Murdered father and husband, brother and son."

Yet it may not be inferred that few sober, thrifty people were to be found in Bumskit and its environment. Nay, the church was there with its seen and unseen forces as well as the tavern. The church resisted, fought against the drink customs and tried to save men from the ruin of intemperance. The passing of the stage lines and the ceasing of heavy teaming through Bumskit brought an end of the demand for liquors by travelers. The Washingtonian Movement reached Spencer. Hon. James Draper and one or two other leading citizens were made a committee to visit the dramsellers and by moral suasion induce them to give up the traffic in liquors. Mr. Wilson listened kindly to their appeal and determined to make an end of rumselling. I remember when his open bar gave place to a locker which in turn was soon closed and the sale of intoxicants over the tavern bar was no more. Indeed, the tavern itself was closed about the same time as there was little demand for a public house at Bumskit after the day of the stage coach was over.

Prior to all this, "topers" were not a few in the village. Some were crabbed and cross, a terror to children as they

walked uncertainly and essayed to speak to the boys and girls that failed to avoid them. One, however, is kindly remembered, Bela Barnes. He was ever genial when full. His step was usually firm, while some special mental elation seemed to follow a dram. Children did not fear his approach. But his bad habit grew upon him. In later years I saw him drink essence of peppermint and Thompson's Hot Drops, fiery medicines, emptying the bottles without pause for breath or sign of difficulty in swallowing such unusual drinks. All in all he was one of the most unique characters known among the Spencer men of a century. Had he been in the right environment and been a sober man he might have filled positions that few men reach. He was adroit, witty and full of practical jokes. His most intimate acquaintances, when in his presence were ever alert and watchful of him, albeit, he was never known to do a mean act.

It is related of him that becoming hungry at a cattle show, he walked up to a stand loaded with eatables and addressed the proprietor as follows : "Will you give me as much gingerbread as you can afford to sell for ten cents." The man said "yes" and handed him the requisite amount. Mr. Barnes took the bread, turned his back and commenced eating. In a short time the proprietor said to him "Are you not going to pay me ?" "Pay you ?" said Bela looking astonished and speaking in a slow, deep monotone, "didn't you hear what I said ?" "Yes," said the man. "Well, then," said Bela according to the contract this bread belongs to me, you think it over and see," which the man did and found on second thought a brand new reason for quick wit in his business.

To the above incident, furnished by Mr. Tower, I will add the story of

A Free Sleighride

enjoyed by Mr. Barnes at the expense of the tavern keeper.

Mr. Wilson with his fellow-townsmen had given a day to the town meeting. It was a rough, wintry day. The wind swept the hills and madly piled the snow in the highways. The day waned, but the cold increased as night drew near and snow flurries filled the air. Bela, less attentive to the duties of citizenship, put in a part of the day at the tavern at Bumskit. The present highway by the brick schoolhouse leading to Spencer was not at that time. Then you went by the Oakham road to the Morse place (I think a cellar and a well still mark the site), then up the slope to the Jonathan Monroe farm and so on to the center. This bit of road was closed when the new way by the schoolhouse was opened. As

Mr. Wilson was returning he passed along from the Monroe place down the hill, and suddenly saw a human form partly covered by the drifting snow just at the edge of the road. Halting he found it was Bela Barnes. Apparently he was stupid with intoxication. To leave him in the snow would probably be death. The tavern would suffer in reputation if one of its patrons thus perished on a winter's night. Though impatient to reach shelter himself Landlord Wilson turned about in the heavy drifts and with no little effort, for Mr. Barnes was much the heavier man, succeeded in loading his imperilled patron into the sleigh. Then through the driving snow and the full road he pushed back to the Pliny Allen home, his man showing no sign of lessening stupor. Mrs. Allen was a sister of Mr. Barnes and this farm was for years much of the time his home. As Mr. Wilson drove up to the door his supposedly drunken man suddenly leaped from the cutter to the door stone, and, bowing with stately courtesy, said, "I thank you Mr. Wilson." Then, before speech came to the astounded landlord Mr. Barnes entered the house, leaving "mine host" to recover his wits and drive home, reflecting mayhap on some of the peculiar involvings of rumselling to men made in the image of God and by drink made unfit to live or die.

An Evening in the Bar Room.

When some six or seven years old Aaron Segar, a faithful patron of Mr. Wilson's bar, came to my father's to fit wood for the stove. This was late in March. After supper one day Mr. Segar asked me to go with him. He took me to the bar room which presently had all its chairs filled. I was not allowed such visits and this one was clandestine. Drinks were freely taken by nearly all present. Some paid at once. Others had a score. Indeed, this Mr. Segar in due time drank up his patrimony, a good farm. He often helped in work at our home. I remember one year when he came to fit wood for the year's supply. He left in evident wrath at close of the first day. At noon he was so far intoxicated as to barely miss sitting on the floor as he essayed a chair at the dinner table. After his troubling deportment at dinner he went to a neighbor's where cider had not been banished from the household stores. During his absence father found his jug about the woodpile, drew the cork, and left it upside down to drain. Later Mr. Segar seeking added comfort in his "little brown jug" was indignant and hastily departed. After a few days he thought better of the matter, came and finished the work, receiving his pay without comment from either side.

But I was telling of the night in the bar room. The

place seemed uncanny to me. The impression has stayed through the years. Though thus ill at ease I waited till Mr. Segar led me home at nine o'clock. During the day the moving of a negro family had attracted much attention in the village, as the various nondescript teams and loads passed by. Late in the evening two black men, evidently the last of the family, came in, paid for something at the bar and then asked entertainment for themselves and their horses for the night. The scene is before me now. The landlord inside the bar, smiling and loquacious, the full chairs encircling the dimly lighted room, the tall, well-formed negroes, one turning grey, the other a stalwart, young man, father and son, doubtless, facing the host and waiting his decision. Mr. Wilson ran his eye about the circle and said, "My house is full tonight, I can't give you a bed." Yet all his guests were for the evening only. The negroes evidently understood the situation. Their need was real, so begged stoutly, men and beasts were weary, the night was dark and chill, they could not go on to Paxton, they were clean, had money and would pay generously, still they were denied. Then they craved a lodging on the hay in the barn, would willingly share with their jaded animals. This was severely denied also. Sadly they turned to the door and went out into the gloom of the night to push somewhere for shelter and rest. Who was white?

"Alas for the rarity
Of Christian charity
Under the sun?"

Directly after I was taken home, charged not to tell my parents of the things seen and heard. The evening had not been of wild carousal, the talk not wholly bad, but the evil habit of dram-drinking had been directly strengthened and the love of home correspondingly weakened. Evidence of the hardening incident to dramselling and drinking appeared in the hard usage of the black men. Indignation thereat burns in me yet. Besides the negro still waits the day of just treatment. His hardship and sorrow have not ceased. Nevertheless his day will dawn. Christianity wins its battles. Delays and seeming defeats hinder, yet Christianity moves ever forward. It conquers, slowly, but surely. The negro, some day, will have due recognition as a man. Also the hoary iniquity of the drink traffic will find its end. The night will pass, the day come.

Not long after the above incident dramselling ceased at Bumskit, as already noted. The evil work done in the years remained in evidence. Some men failed to reform. Some

noble types of manhood had been ruined. As I recall things, Aunt Sally Cunningham's house seemed to be a shelter for such bruised and broken men. Perhaps a genuine womanly regard for those in misfortune, a real motherliness for those in sore need of such ministry, was hers.

The Morse brothers, remnant of a North Spencer family of vigor and thrift, found home with her. There also Thomas Sargent, Aaron Segar and others in need often found housing and care. Long, long years ago the busy, care-taking woman passed from mortal sight. Gladly I pen this tribute to a good woman, who ever seemed busy for some one besides herself. She had a nephew, Lewis Cunningham. He was called one of the bright men of the town. The promise of his youth was broken by drink. Probably the unhealthy environment of dram-selling, the drinking habit was potent for his ruin. Native force was broken and the bright light dimmed. Instead of the prosperous farmer, the useful citizen, the noble man he might have been, he failed of all and spent the later years of an impoverished life at the town farm. With full respect for the family name and for the man himself, I write this word of soberness. The unwise choices and the wrong habits of youth are sobering things. The Sally Cunningham farm later passed to our sometime inn and store keeper, Jonas Wilson. He proved a good farmer and passed many years upon the farm with the general respect and confidence of his neighbors.

Mr. Wilson also served as postmaster. I think he had the office from the date of its establishment until it was discontinued many years after he gave up his store and had moved to the Sally Cunningham place. At first the postoffice was the bar-room. I recall the heavy postage of the time. My father used to have mail from northern New Hampshire. I saw him pay eighteen and three-fourth cents for a letter. Postage was not prepaid then. Neither in the bar-room nor at the store after the office was removed there, when the tavern closed, was there anything like the modern postoffice boxes. When the service was later rendered at his dwelling house the mail was delivered from a table in the sitting room or at the door.

Nevertheless, I remember no complaint of loss or of unfaithfulness during all the years of Mr. Wilson's long term of office. This primitive mail service was a great boon to North Spencer.

The Washingtonian temperance meetings at the school-house are remembered with interest. Many signed the pledge, the children being welcomed to such honorable enrollment. I remember a night when William ("Bill Than") Bemis was present and sang a temperance song in his well-known elephantine style. It had one line something like this: "We'll kick

King Alcohol from the land." He emphasized that with a vigorous show of leg-power and the display of a huge cowhide boot.

The Isaac Prouty Boot Shop.

Of the foundation and development of the great manufacturing plant of Isaac Prouty and Co., now the Isaac Prouty & Co., incorporated, some other pen will write. I only call attention to the shop as one of the centers, later really the center, of life at Bumskit. As Wilson's store ceased to be and the postoffice was taken to his residence the boot shop became the one village resort. There the current gossip was aired. There social plans were outlined, discussed and determined. From that all the industry of the village and the vicinity was nourished. Boys carried boot backs home to stitch seams and sew on the leathern leg-straps of those days. Men took home uppers and soles for the work of a bottomer. In the Alden Prouty shop, small one at head of the village in those days, "crimping" was done, "siding" also. With every house a shop was connected, or some room assigned for like service. From all these after supper, and on holidays men, young and old, poured forth to play "round ball." The game went on at the four cross roads, just by the blacksmith shop. Game and shop are now memories only. But what eager hours of sport were then ! Thirty or forty men were easily called together for the game. Captain Prouty never spared time for aught of that order. My father never shared the games. I think Mr. Wilson did not. There was hardly another exception in the village. A boot factory came to be also at the Reuben Cunningham place. Much business like that at the Prouty shop was done for several years by Samuel H., a brother of Reuben. The workmen from that shop swelled the company for the evening sports.

About this time the village was stirred by a cry for help in fighting fire at "Chestnut Hill." Charles Browning, then living in the south part of Rutland and known as the largest landholder of all the region, held generous timber lands at the hill above named, near the mills long known as the "Thompson Mills," because owned and operated by the late William L. Thompson. Essaying that day to burn a piece from which the wood and lumber had been taken, the fire passed beyond control with increasing peril to much property. Mr. Browning raced his fine chestnut horse to Bumskit, called for help, filled his roomy wagon with men and boys, asked others to follow fast as possible and then the faithful, knowing steed pushed back up the Cunningham hill, galloping with his great load as

if he knew his master's need. The pace was kept down the steep grade to the Dwight Walker place, there the horse turned into the mill road and ceased not his mighty stride till we were in the mill yard. Then while we hurried to the fight, Mr. B. pulled the harness from his horse, turned him loose in a box stall, poured a half-bushel of oats in the feed-box and left him to care for himself. As some one asked if it was not unwise thus to feed after a hard drive, the confident response came: "No, he knows too much to eat before he is cool." After a severe struggle the furious fire was brought under mastery. The fight was sharp. Furrows were turned in the damp soil and the eager flame-tongues were whipped back by boughs broken from the full-leaved trees. This is much to write of a brush fire. But no other fire forms any part of my boyhood memories.

The School in District No. 5.

Prior to 1840 the school for North Spencer boys and girls was ordered summer and winter in a small, red schoolhouse, "A ragged beggar sunning" by the wayside on the road from Bunskit to Jocktown, at foot of the Reuben Cunningham hill. This house of the olden days stood with a side to the road. Inside a spacious fireplace largely occupied the back of the one room and from the narrow level of the central floor seats for pupils sloped toward the high windows at the front. The door was at the south, the teacher's desk at the end opposite the entrance. In rear of the big chimney and fireplace was a recess into which three or four boys could climb for variety in play when the school session was broken by an intermission.

One day in the midst of our work there emerged from this hiding place an unkempt and blear-eyed man. He stopped and stared. The stare was returned. Teachers and scholars were startled and uncertain. The intruder was no more at ease. Presently we saw that "Tom Sargent," a well known man whom drink had long humbled and broken, stood thus in the midst. Soon, with no little show of confusion, he pushed for the door and without a word of explanation walked heavily away. Evidently the poor fellow had crept to this shelter when intoxicated, had there slept and drank and slept again till sober waking came in school hours and there was no way out but through the school-room. Unforbidden, and unrebuked, save by our silence he left us, but the memory of such a visitant remained.

Another more amusing, yet withal a startling incident of school in that house comes to mind. It was not exactly as the "Mary had a little lamb" story, albeit a lamb, rather a sheep,

was a central figure. Aunt Sally Cunningham had reared a cosset lamb in her dooryard, which often made its way through the door to the kitchen. Its early mildness, however, had given place to a fierceness for butting all comers. Growing bolder and more venturesome, this animal became troublesome beyond the limits of its home dooryard. One day this butting sheep, walked off up the road to the schoolhouse and for some reason suddenly pushed its ever-ready head into sharp, resonant knocking on the inner door of the schoolroom. Before response to the loud knock could be made it was repeated stoutly. The door yielded and the cosset aforesaid, walked in and held the floor undisputed. Scholars and teacher scrambled to the tops of desks for shelter, each eager to avoid further acquaintance with the uninvited, unwelcome guest. Relief, however, soon appeared. The rover had been missed, and search instituted. A man traced the wandering sheep to the schoolhouse, readily noted the commotion in school, came to the door and presently led the intruder away. I think this wooly school-visitor was directly after changed to mutton and thus, not ignobly, ended the service of life.

In 1840 the school work of the district was transferred to the brick schoolhouse yet standing and in continuous service in this twentieth century. I do not clearly recall the story of the neighborhood stir over the new location. But this is true, the outcome gave the boys and girls a very diminutive playground in front of the new building. Indeed the site was made at the roadside by a bank wall with grading to level of the road and one corner of the house through the sixty and more years has needed the guard of a granite post, being so near the wheel track. The playground, a triangular bit, was also made by a bank wall some eight feet high with grading level to the roadbed. Through the years the road itself has served as the real playground. The citizens kept their valuable lands unabridged and the action of the district has, I think, remained unmodified by the town.

The new schoolroom was better than the old. Desks and seats were still on a sloping floor, but on both sides of the house, with a teacher's desk at the north end. This desk was placed on four posts, leaving an open space between the one-step platform and the base of the desk. In that space, possibly two feet, I was once bidden to stand as penance for misdeed of some sort, deed forgotten, but not the penance. If any flexing of my knees appeared the teacher smartly struck my calves with an eighteen inch maple ruler. Desks for the scholars were so high that only full grown youths could do other than dangle their feet when sitting erect. Two inch chestnut

plank were used for tops of the desks. Yet boys carved them so diligently as to cut through the plank. Boys and girls facing each other was the order of the room. There were seats for sixty, two occupying one desk. The lowest seats were without desks. The larger space was soon filled. More than sixty were in attendance one winter. The back seat on each side was continuous and that winter certain desks were forced to convene three. — As all ages from four to twenty-one were in school, classification was not easy and as every other week had twelve three-hour sessions and the others ten, the teacher, a noble man of delightful memory, had full opportunity to earn his wages. The most severe punishment of that winter that is recalled, was the infliction on two big boys of the pleasure afforded by standing face to face in the floor, each holding to level of the hips one foot of his happy opposite. When the beaded drops began to fall from their temples, relief was ordered.

For the early years of my memory, male teachers were provided for the winter terms in No. 5. The big boys often made things interesting. The last winter of such ordering of the school the first teacher retired at the end of the second week. A man of stature, like Abraham Lincoln, was hired to finish the work of the winter. He kept the school, but “bodily exercise” of which St. Paul affirmed, only profiting but little was often in evidence. After that year the facile domination of woman was assured as readily in winter as in summer. Better work began to have place and the foundation of a good English education was assured unto many boys and girls.

What sports were in that cramped schoolyard at the roadside! At the east a steep hill gave rare sport in winter. Children of today will think it strange that much of the coasting was on narrow strips of board. A barrel stave was an especial delight. The few sleds in ownership were largely turned over to the girls, as they could not so readily bear the discomfort of clothing saturated with snow water. But seldom did any boy take cold from sitting through the afternoon session in garments soaked. It may be opined also that patches on the seats of trousers were not uncommon. But a continuous roar of boisterous speech and laughter made hillside and playground the scene of vigorous, joyful life. Alas, most of those happy voices are heard no more. This world is still indeed to those who look back to days that were at that schoolhouse.

This building was from the beginning wisely used for other purposes than the two terms of school. In “the forties,” as I well remember, there was a “speaking school,” in which the men and women of the district were greatly interested. At

the weekly meeting the seats were filled. Political speeches, patriotic words of the Fathers of the Republic and humorous selections were spoken with no little vigor and grace. Poems, dramatic pieces, Shakspearian and others, with elaborate costuming, were also given. "Lochiel's" Warning was burned into my being by Samuel Boyden and John A. Barelay. The boys and girls from all homes were allowed to attend. Some, at least, found profit thereby.

About the same time there was a district library at the schoolhouse. The books were mostly, if not wholly, for adults. I saw them often, but cannot now give more than this general statement. Whether the books really belonged to No. 5, or were a part of some provision by the town for all the districts, I cannot say. Possibly this reference to such an early library may lead some one to look up the matter before it is too late.

Late in "the fifties" some of the children of the earlier day just noted, were active in a debating society, which held its weekly meetings also in the schoolhouse. They retained the recitation of selections from oration and poem, added debates of various public questions and the special one of American slavery in its political and moral relations to the life of and destiny of the nation. A weekly journal was also prepared and read, not a little original matter being provided by members of the society. The gentler sex were helpers indeed. Along with more sober strains of effort by pen and tongue, wit and humor had their devotees as in all sane assemblings and activities of men and women. Although Bumskit had then ceased to be an industrial center, it was still customary to take work home from the boot shops at the center and thus the homes were yet so full that generally the schoolhouse was filled at the meetings of the debating society. Lyceum, I think, was, after all, the name used.

One great gain was presently manifest. Patriotism grew by discussion and the reproduction of the patriotic utterances of public men. And when the rude alarm of war came, not only were the national colors at every door and every breast, but men paid the supreme price of patriotism, putting life at peril for the nation's weal.

Religious services also had a place as the years passed. The Rev. Levi Packard, now and then, preached at five p. m., Sunday. He was wont to distribute a printed sermon, one of his own. They were worthy of careful reading. How clearly I can see the stately bearing of the man. See him again in the school hour as "examining committee" and recall his just questioning. In his closing "remarks," I note once more the deepening tone as he passes to moral and religious suggestions

and solemnly affirms that "Good boys and good girls make good men and good women." Then follow the words of prayer in tones that sober me across the vanished years.

The Methodist and Baptist clergy also held services at the schoolhouse. In late years, members of the Y. M. C. A. at the center came occasionally to hold meetings. In these certain of the old schoolboys shared, as Lewis and George Prouty, Daniel A. Ball and others. Some services were appointed at "early candlelight." As the schoolroom was not furnished for lighting the "neighbors" used to bring "tallow dips," some with candle-sticks and some without. Turnips and potatoes were made to serve as holders or drippings from the lighted candle were utilized to hold the candle itself. Others came with whale oil lamps, sometimes these would burn only uncertainly, needing the snuffer almost as often as the candles. Then the day of "burning fluid" gave another variety. Pine oil, and coal oil had a brief history, then kerosene put all other illuminators in eclipse. School and church at North Spencer were joined in the common purpose to enlighten, strengthen and bless each and all.

The old schoolhouse was not in decay. It was outgrown. North Spencer had then large families. It was said there were twenty-one births at Elisha Prouty's. Of these a large number reached mature life, albeit some died in infancy. The mother outlived her husband and had "a green old age." She was a real mother, "one of God's mothers," as George Macdonald said of a Scotch woman who loved every bairn whether her own or not. At Jonathan Monroe's were sixteen births, at my father's, twelve. Sturdy groups came schoolward from every quarter. Children were in every dooryard at Bumskit. They came along the Jocktown road. Lyons, Walkers and Cunninghams; Whittams from a branch road; Scotts, Balls and Barrs from the Oakham road; Newtons, Proutys, Clarks and Boydens from the village; and Newhalls, Allens, Clarks, Coles and Monroes from the south. It is not strange that a larger house was demanded.

The old was transformed into a dwelling house. A cellar was dug, of which there is still a showing. Lewis Newton, already mentioned, with his mother lived therein for a year and a half. Later the house was sold to Christopher G. Lyon, who moved it to a plot of land near his father's home, on the road to Jocktown. In it his large family was reared and when able Mr. Lyon added a two-story front. The older part is yet in service, the original red paint still in evidence. The day of removal was a great day for the small boy. It was not a light matter for the men of the neighborhood. Mr. Lyon arranged a "bee"

for the work. Heavy oxen from the Hubbard farm and strong horses from the Allen place and from all the country side stalwart teams came. Chains, cables, blocks and other appliances were in hand. The house was undershod by long timbers and a whole day was hardly enough for the task. Cables parted, chains failed and men hurried to the smithy for repairs; teamsters shouted; the long drawn team renewed the strain again and again, and so the day wore on. Thus in the "good old times," neighbors helped each other.

One sailor boy went out from No. 5. Boys sometimes, as is well known, become restive and think life away from home must be fairer. Two, at least, of our old number ate of that insane root. Horace, eldest son of Elisha Prouty, and John H., eldest son of Pliny Allen. They plotted and escaped from home. I received something of their confidence and shared for a little their fever. When they put one of the plans to action I was left out. They were missed from home one morning. About two weeks later Horace re-appeared at his father's; was welcomed; remained at home and was a faithful son, ripening to a vigorous manhood, living worthily until his decease some years since. John H. did not return. His father diligently sought him, only to be disappointed. Finally Mr. Allen traced his boy to New Bedford and reached the wharf just after John had sailed away for a whaling voyage. Of course such conduct filled both homes with grief. In the one case relief soon came. In the other sorrow was protracted. I think seven years passed before the sailor boy came again to his patient mother, who had so long waited his coming. The warm welcome from all kept him for some years. Later the ties of wife and children made him yet more content away from blue water. Still the love of the sea stayed with him. He was not a landsman. He sailed again as supercargo in a good ship and found a grave in the deep, deep sea. To me his memory is precious. We were friends.

One boy had an unusual experience not long after his ninth birthday. It was in winter; heavy snows had fallen. The fields, even the fences, were hidden by the prevailing blanket of snow. Then rain came, swiftly followed by intense cold. Thus the finest coasting was ready for all. School had closed and every owner of a sled was delighted and busy. This boy had that winter a birthday present of a sled, fashioned well in oak by his father. Christmas in those days was but slightly noted in North Spencer. No Christmas trees were known. No stockings were hung. St. Nicholas was a great unknown. We wished each other a "Merry Christmas" in mutual rivalry for the first loud salute with that phrase. School "kept" and

work went on as on other days. There were no "holidays" for the boys and girls of Bumskit at Christmas. Hence I write, the sled was a birthday gift, albeit this boy was born on Christmas day.

As the good coasting appeared the new sled was fully in service. One winter day the youngster disputed with his mates as to the best place for the afternoon's sport. The others went east and he to the west from Bumskit. Near the Morse place on the road to the pond, he coasted on the slope into the open meadow. Coming up the hill, as is ever the alternative in coasting, the lad noticed a slight mound near the top of the hill. Thinking it a capital place for the sled to receive an impulse from the knee, he at once put his sled in position, then stepped behind to give the push and fly down the slope on the firm, shining crust. His next consciousness came to him at the bottom of the Morse well, as in quick effort for safety he scrambled from the water to the wall of the well. Then dripping from the hasty plunge from which he had emerged with a complete wetting and certain bruises, he began to think of the larger matter, how to get out of the well itself, which was some thirty feet deep, though fortunately it had only a few feet of water in its hole.

An uncle lived not far away. So the first thought was to call him. But loud shouts for help brought no response. The voice was from too great a depth. Soon realizing this, effort was made to get nearer the surface of the ground in order to be heard, but without thinking of an unaided exit. His hands had been protected from the biting cold of the winter day by a pair of new mittens, a birthday gift from his mother. To use them now would spoil them. So they were stowed in pockets and the task of climbing renewed without protection for the hands. Halts with fresh cries for help were multiplied, but none came. Slowly, successfully climbing was secured, though still confident help was essential to escape from the well. Presently a point was reached where all the wall above was coated with polished ice. A long halt followed, with urgent calling for aid. Still there was no evidence that any one heard the strenuous call.

The afternoon waned. The boy's troubles grew. To stay at the point reached was not easy. To relax his uncertain hold was to fall to the bottom again and to perish. To climb higher with fingers stiffened by the increasing cold was work indeed. But discouragement was resisted and a fresh push upward made. The grasp of hand and hold of foot failed again and again on the ice-bound stones of the rising wall. Fortunately both did not fail at once. At length it was pos-

sible to show a hand above the top of the well. Another prolonged cry for help was as useless as all before. Again he pushed upward and somehow helped by the Unseen, directly he rolled out from the icy mouth of the well and the hard fight ended in victory.

Getting his feet under him and seizing the cord of the sled which had barely balanced at edge of the broken crust at the well's mouth, he ran to the nearest shelter, the shop of the uncle he had called so lustily and vainly. Once there he was asked: "Where have you been?" "In the Morse well," said the shivering boy. "I don't believe it," was the response. With that a well known "Cracker pedlar" came in, saying at once: "He tells the truth, I saw him roll out and start down the hill." Then the heavy, frozen clothing, the stiff, benumbed fingers gave added confirmation. A stir followed and soon the half-frozen boy was in a warm bed, petted by two faithful, motherly women.

Word was hastily sent to the father and presently his word of cheer brought fresh comfort. The lad had known the well was on the hillside and unprotected. But that day none could have noted it in any other manner than by stepping into it as the white mantle of winter was over that as over all the hidden things of the fields. The thoughtful father hastened to cover it so that no other boy might sound its depth in such manner. Then after due refreshment the lad with this new burden of early experience found the welcome of his home.

Dwight F. Monroe, an old schoolmate, sends me the following list of men who served in the army during the Civil War, who were North Spencer boys, or were living there at time of enlistment. Mr. Monroe himself, (think he was the first to enlist), his two brothers, George M. and David B., Henry P., John B. and Charles F. Lyon, Horace and Addison Prouty, Daniel A. Ball, Emerson Stone, David B. and Charles H. Allen, John W. Bigelow, Charles A. Boyden, Lyman Newhall, Daniel M. Rowell, Alonzo Tyrrell, Thomas Moore, Charles L. Fay, Joseph Benjamin, Tertullus Ward. To these may be added three names from Paxton families attending church at Jocktown. A goodly number indeed. D. F. Monroe was mustered in June 21, 1861, Tenth Mass. Co. H. Was the first man wounded in the regiment at the battle of Williamsburg and Fair Oaks, and after hospital experience was honorably discharged for disability occasioned by gun-shot wound in the hip. I cannot give even glimpses of the services of these brave boys. Their record is elsewhere and imperishable. Mr. Monroe gives a generous word for Daniel M. Rowell. He

served in Co. K, Tenth Mass. Mr. Rowell was the best fighter in the regiment. At Fair Oaks when a shot splintered his gun stock he stopped to fill and light his pipe, then picked up a gun from the side of a fallen comrade and while loading a shot ruined the ramrod, not discouraged he seized the gun of another comrade just fallen and continued to fire at the enemy and had to be pulled from the field when a retreat was ordered.

Tertullus Ward married my sister in the summer of 1862. Soon after he enlisted in a Vermont cavalry regiment and was killed at Gettysburg.

There are a few others of whom a word must have place : George Miron, eldest son of Jonathan and Hannah Monroe, is worthy of honorable mention aside from his army record of which it can only be said he was under Gen. Banks at New Orleans with David, his younger brother, to share his experiences. George, while a boy, perhaps fourteen or fifteen, contributed several thoughtful, well-written articles to the Boston Cultivator, which appeared in its literary department. As schoolmates we wondered at such success of our playfellow. He had won recognition for good work while we were busy with play. Of later literary effort by him I have no knowledge. He was ever a quiet, unassuming man, retiring and reticent.

His schooling was limited by the opportunities afforded in the school of his birthplace. In touch with leather from his earliest memory he became, like his father and many others in Spencer, a boot-bottomer. Patient in toil he found within himself enough to make life significant. To all outward appearance his interest in woman was slight. At least his attention to any of the other sex was unobserved. He remained a bachelor. His life was pure and reverent. His still nature had depth and unusual power of self-control and direction.

Intellectual development made little outward show for many years. He seemed content with the modest returns of daily toil in the shop. But after William Sumner's inspiring teaching in sacred music at the old meeting house, there was an awakening in the soul of this quiet man. His musical power began to appear. Visiting him after some years I found he had written much. His music began to have place in the collection published by L. O. Emerson and W. O. Perkins. His work was not unworthy of such honor. Creative forces continued to stir in him. In a few years he so increased his manuscript collection and his courage to test the public appreciation of his work as to purpose the publication of a book himself.

Then came a lessening of his natural strength. He essayed renewal of health by a winter in Florida. There away from kindred and friends serious illness came and before his brother could reach him he was beyond help. Thus passed away a good man, a friend beloved whose nature was akin to the noblest of earth.

Among the families prominent in the church at Jocktown was the Luther Monroe family. Although not at all of Spencer save as they were of its First Baptist church, I am reminded to give the sons a place in this record. They attended the "Puddin Corner School," the family being resident in that part of Paxton. Nearly, or quite, sixty years ago Mrs. Monroe, who was a tailoress, made for my father a coat from a very old time overcoat. One winter morning my mother sent me for the garment. If it was not finished and Mrs. Monroe thought she could complete the work in an hour or two I was to wait and spend the time in play with the boys who were classmates at Sunday school. The coat was not done but Mrs. Monroe thought she could soon finish, so bade me wait. The boys, however, were at school. Some way the work called for more time than was expected and the wait was prolonged until the dinner hour drew near. Then Mrs. Monroe said she must get dinner for the boys, which I should share and she would end the work while we should be at dinner. Presently the boys came in. After mutual greetings with much boy-like exuberance, we were seated for dinner. There was one course only. Frozen pudding was served in a large dish. There was enough for all. The iced pudding was not the modern dainty by the above name, but simply the hasty pudding of our New England ancestors, immortalized in the Harvard "Hasty Pudding Club." The pudding has been served hot previously, then it had frozen solid in the cold pantry. It was served in scalding-hot skim milk that day. Appetite was keen and all left the table satisfied and ready for renewed play or work.

Rude fare, but sturdy boys grew to strong men in that home. Edward E. was at the head of the enlistment roll in his native town. He served from the opening of the war until near the end, was then taken prisoner and died of starvation in Salisbury. Poor boy ! how some of his mother's hasty pudding would have cheered him in that far prison. Nathan A. also enlisted but saw only brief service, dying early of chronic diarrhea. His memory is closely connected with the choir at the old meeting house. He played the first violin there for many years. His work was excellent. The names of these two patriot sons may be read in the granite of the soldiers' monument on Paxton Common.

George H., a third son of this family, was a fine tenor. For years his voice made melody at Jocktown. Later he sang at the Congregational church in Leicester. He served as chorister there also for twenty-five years. He was ever good and devout. Suddenly he closed his life when apparently his eye was not dim nor his native force abated. His long and faithful service as a singer will be a precious memory to many.

One other soldier may be named, A. S. Graton, brother of the widow of Daniel A. Ball, soon after his marriage to Louisa, daughter of Zadok Pike, who lived in Paxton but near the Baptist church, enlisted, saw much service in the army, was taken to prison at Andersonville where he remained until after the surrender of Lee and the end of the war. By Yankee shrewdness in small trading he kept himself from starvation and from mental ruin in his long and terrible imprisonment. He came out emaciated and broken. After leaving the public lines of travel he walked with difficulty to the home of Mr. Pike where his wife was. At the door he asked alms for a crippled soldier on his way home. He was kindly received but without recognition. For a little he simply noted the preparation for his refreshment. Soon, unable longer to bear the strain, he cried out, "Does no one know me?" Recognition followed and a scene of mingled joy and sorrow none may depict.

In due time health was recovered and years of active, useful life were granted. The great exposures and hardships of his army days brought a train of ills which later compelled retirement from business and for two years serious illness kept him at home. His confinement was relieved in many ways by kindness of army comrades, the great beneficence of the government, and the loving ministry of his home. Thus the end of life came.

In boyhood Mr. Graton lived with his parents at the Joshua Sylvester farm in Spencer and was a member of the Sunday school of the Methodist Episcopal church. After his army experiences he lived in Paxton, though for years a salesman in the Sargent carriage rooms on Waldo Street, Worcester. He was long a pillar of the church in Paxton and died as "a good soldier of Jesus Christ."

Mr. Tower, who has more recent familiarity with the north part of the town says :

That part of the old country road passing east and west through Spencer and Bumskit some three or four miles in length perhaps, presents today scenes of desolation, unmatched along any other roadside of equal length in town. Old tumbling down barns and outbuildings, old windowless houses in the last

stages of decay and more numerous than these old cellars overgrown with shrubs and vines but too sadly reveal where once the thrifty husbandman dwelt. On the north side of the road a little way up the hill west of Browning pond brook is the cellar of a house where "old John Barclay," as he used to be called, once kept a little store and from this center made frequent journeys into the surrounding districts to more quickly dispose of his wares. He always went afoot and was what would now be called a packpeddler. They were not numerous in those days and every child when they saw him coming left all other forms of amusement just to look with curious eyes into his opened valise of as miscellaneous a lot of small merchandise for household use as could readily be carried, but he with all of his generation has long ago disappeared from the earth, leaving behind him only what now has become the remains of the places where they once dwelt and a few fragmentary memories in the minds of some who once knew them.

To this I may add that "Ma'am Barclay" kept a few things for sale more tempting to boys than anything in her husband's pack. When fishing at the pond or picking huckleberries on the hills beyond it was great sport to buy a glass of "mead," or a piece of "Ma'am Barclay's" cherry pie, both if money in hand permitted. Alas, it was often otherwise. Both father and mother Barclay are gone. "Alick," the son, whom the mother ever praised and the father as constantly faulted, has followed them. His sons are landmarks now owning much of North Spencer and of adjacent lands.

It is fitting to stay my pen. Many other memories press. I should have written of our frequent observance of the national birthday as one of the reasons why North Spencer nobly responded to the nation's call for men in the hour of great need. In some way the day was remembered. The first observance I recall was a picnic near Browning's pond and a Revolutionary soldier was present. That was probably sixty-four years ago. The soldier's name was Eben Rixford. His widow lived many years later with her aged mother, Mrs. Newton, in a small house opposite the home of Daniel Ball. To this house my mother sent me each morning of Thanksgiving day with something of the good cheer of the feast for the comfort of the widows housed there.

It was so customary to have some fitting observance of Independence day that one year anent the discussion of prospect and plans one young man wisely remarked by way of stimulus, "If they don't have no Fourth of July this year, I shall go fishing." A picnic celebration near Thompson's Mills was held in 1857. Only native talent could be secured after

much effort. Nevertheless, the day was full of brightness and of forces that intensified love of country and mutual delight. Daniel A. Ball, Henry P. Lyon, George H. Monroe, Alfred H. Brown, W. L. Thompson, Reuben Cunningham, a noble youth, early taken away by consumption, loved and lamented by all, Clementine Boyden, Lydia A. Lyon, Ruth Cunningham, Sarah Allen, and others were radiant and helpful that day. The memory of song, sentiment and speech is vivid and delightful.

As already indicated, great changes have been in all that country side. The Cunninghams, early settlers of Scotch vigor and thrift, have now no representative in the whole neighborhood. The Monroes are all away also. The Ivory Allen farm is owned by aliens. The Allen mill is gone and the water flows unvexed to join the Seven Mile River below. The cider-mill at the Newton place, Bumskit, is hardly a memory there. The blacksmith is forgotten, his house and shop unknown for a generation. The tavern is a ruin. The store departed long ago and the stage barn followed to the same oblivion. One boot shop has served as a barn many years. The other is in ruins. The post office is no more. The ball players are not, nor the youth that filled the village with glee. The meeting house has been moved away from the hill-top and the old households are broken and scattered.

CAPTAIN ISAAC PROUTY.

The founders of the leading industry of the town should have honorable recognition in these sketches of Spencer history. The manufacture of boots at an early day had beginnings at two points in the township. Other ventures in this line, many of them, followed in due time and helped largely to swell the volume of production with its attendant industry and resultant wealth, until Spencer became notable as a center of activity in leather.

With the manifold change incident to later movements in the world of business came the retirement of many of the boot manufacturers of the town until not a single representative of Josiah Green, the first pioneer, remained and the entire output of footwear was issued by two productive forces at the Prouty and Jones shops. Notwithstanding, the making of boots and shoes abides as the dominant industry of Spencer.

The present purpose is to set forth in fair measure the rise and development of this industry by Isaac Prouty and the Isaac Prouty Company and with that a brief study of the man who laid the foundations of the great business now carried on by that house. It will be essential to give some account of the family in order to note the real quality of the man, and this may well appear at once.

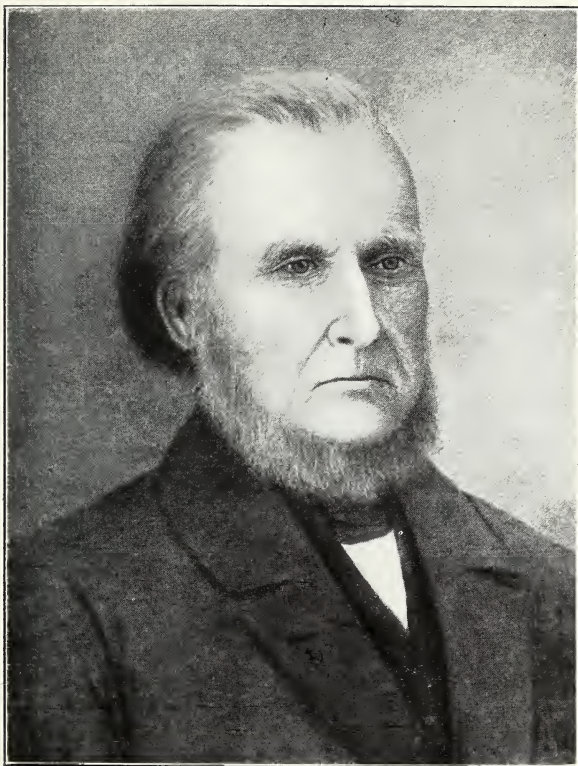
His Lineage.

The ancestry of Isaac Prouty has been traced back to Richard Prouty, who was living in Scituate, Mass., in 1667. Two earlier Isaacs are noted in the line of descent. Six of the children of the second of these Isaacs are said to have come to Spencer. Of these Thomas, the father of the man now to be studied, was one. Evidently these Proutys were of English stock. The removal to Spencer was doubtless sometime in the last half of the eighteenth century.

This Thomas Prouty married a Spencer woman, Louisa Wood. To the new home came three sons, John Nazro, Homer, Isaac ; also one daughter, Diadamia.

A brief notice of the elder brothers of Isaac will indicate the vigor of this new blood for Spencer. John Nazro made a farmer's home in the northerly part of the town, not far

from the Ivory Allen place. In the midst of forceful life he met death by accident in the street at Worcester. His widow kept the farm and cared for the children as they had need. Those in mature life helped to make the Prouty name honorable. The eldest, Thomas A., has already conspicuous record in these historic sketches. John Nazro, Jr., and Theodore have also after worthy lives, passed away. One daughter, Melinda L.,



CAPTAIN ISAAC PROUTY.

long known as Mrs. John Rockwood, is still living, and the youngest son, Vernon, died a few years ago. Isaac Lothrop Prouty, director of the Spencer National bank, and active citizen of his native town, was in busy life when this slight record of his branch of the Prouty family was begun. Now he has been carried by his compeers to an honored grave.

Homer, the second son of Thomas Prouty, became a stout-hearted farmer in North Brookfield, outliving both his brothers and raising a family of ten sons and one daughter.

The educational advantages afforded these rugged Spencer boys were simply those of the common school of one hundred years ago. Evidently they shared alike until the death of their father when Isaac, who was born Dec. 9, 1798, was some twelve years old. Thomas Prouty had acquired little in the way of a competence for his family. Isaac was bound out, directly, to Charles Watson, a citizen in the easterly part of the town. The lad was then about thirteen. Mr. Watson was to give him the privileges of the district school, to teach him the shoemaker's trade, to clothe him and to pay him at his majority one hundred dollars. With this sundering of home ties and the accompanying sense of poverty of means, compelling the breaking of a home, it is not strange that an eager desire for gain, for a larger prosperity was awakened in the heart of this youth. No money was to be paid him for years. With a stout heart he sought some relief from the severity of his position. By trapping game and selling the same and by careful saving of all receipts he was able with some brotherly help from John Nazro to buy his freedom when he was nineteen.

After this purchase of his time he worked awhile for Josiah Green, the pioneer in the manufacture of boots already mentioned. This indicates that Mr. Watson had been faithful in some good measure to teach the bootmakers' trade to his 'prentice boy and also that the lad had been sharp to improve his opportunity.

Later Mr. Prouty, now approaching full manhood, toiled for some years as a bootmaker, and perhaps for a Paxton firm, at the farm long known as the William Comins place, then in Rutland but afterward set off with the Davis and Hubbard farms to the town of Paxton. The Comins farm was then held by the late Dea. Ira Barton, with whom Mr. Prouty boarded, having a shop connected with the other farm buildings. In that shop he labored early and late, day by day, till years passed slowly by and his feet by continual abrasion wore quite through the boarding of the floor. Others of the shoe-making craft have thus worn out the flooring at their feet. But only the patient, hardworking craftsmen ever made such records.

Mr. Prouty not only worked hard, making long days, he also saved the greater part of his earnings. Rather, he allowed the money due him to accumulate in the keeping of his employers until some \$1,200 was due. Then came the failure of the firm and final payment of ten per cent.

Some labor troubles are of ancient date.

About this time Mr. Prouty was married. His mother-in-law is said to have essayed to comfort him over the above financial loss by saying, "Isaac, you must not let this discourage you, you are young, and can earn more." There is no other indication in the record that he ever lost his courage and this word from a respected woman is by no means a proof of discouragement. It was simply a note of good cheer.

Marriage.

In the early days now under review a farmer named John Goodell lived prosperously at the place just north of the Spencer line, later known for many years as the Sol. Davis farm ; then, still later, owned by the late Jason Wilson and now by one of the sons of John A. Barclay, deceased. At this Goodell home Isaac Prouty found, wooed and won his first helpmeet. On the eighth day of June, 1826, Isaac Prouty and Mary Ann Goodell were joined in holy wedlock. By this marriage there was a positive strengthening of his financial standing, and the years that followed of conjugal and family life were years of advancement and blessing.

The Family.

The following children were born : John Goodell, Lewis Wilder, George Porter, Ellen Smith, and Jason Wood. This youngest child died in infancy. The others reached maturity and will receive farther notice.

The worthy mother of these children all too soon was taken from the home by death, Dec. 5, 1837.

On the twentieth day of October, 1840, Mr. Prouty was again joined in marriage with Mary Ann, daughter of Lewis Newton, Rutland, Mass. This step also allied Mr. Prouty with wealth. Yet withal both these wives were women of generous, native endowments much more valuable than the money with which they by birth were connected.

Of this second marriage were born : Jane E., Charles Newton, Mary Ann, Julia Elizabeth, Louise Jennie, and Jason Wood. Of these the eldest died in infancy. The others are still living. Mrs. Prouty, the mother, outlived her husband a few years, saw her children established in mature and active life, was loved and cherished by them and after the years of manifold burden and joy passed to her account and reward July 20, 1876.

Beginnings at North Spencer.

After his first marriage Captain Prouty appears to have lived awhile at the home of William Bemis in the Wire village neighborhood. His eldest son seems to have been born there.

Soon the home was transferred to Rutland, one and one-half miles north from North Spencer, and near the Wilder place, so called. There Lewis Wilder was born and there Captain Prouty began, in a small way, the manufacture of boots. Presently he moved all his interests to North Spencer. At first he had rooms in the Wilson tavern and there George Porter was added to his number.

Securing the house, with a small plot of land at the head of the village, hard by the home of Edmund Newton, he installed his growing family therein and carried forward the making of boots by order from measure in one of its rooms. In this house he continued to live until he transferred business and home to the middle of the town.

These minor details are of value as indicating the hindrances through which the man made his upward way and the struggle by which his fiber was toughened and his nature strengthened for the later and more severe testing by larger things.

Growing demand for larger space in which to push the manufacture of boots led to the erection of the first factory, at North Spencer. It was small and simple. A one and one-half story frame building, some 18 by 36 feet. For many years it was known far and near as "Capt. Isaac's Shop." It now serves as a barn at the Hiram Barr place, a little way on the Oakham road.

Mr. Prouty thus became an employer. Workmen appeared in the shop, and slowly, but surely, the varied activity of a boot factory was established. In the larger room of the first floor the cutter's tables had the fairest light while the benches of bottomers and other essential appliances and machines had the balance of the floor. Stock and products were stored in a smaller room near the entrance. On the second floor were beds for workmen. A day came when the entire space of both floors was overcrowded.

From the first the shop became a social center—a sharp rival of the Wilson tavern and store. After the closing of these Capt. Isaac's shop was for years the industrial and social headquarters of the people from Captain Isaac Prouty's to Amos Ware's in Paxton and from Oakham line to the "Puddin' Corner" neighborhood beyond the Baptist meeting house at Jocktown.

From most of the surrounding homes men, women and children made frequent trips to the shop for work of some sort. Boys and girls "stitched counters" and "sewed on straps." Those a bit older were busy from day to day "siding boots," and men took away "uppers" and "bottom stock" with "find-

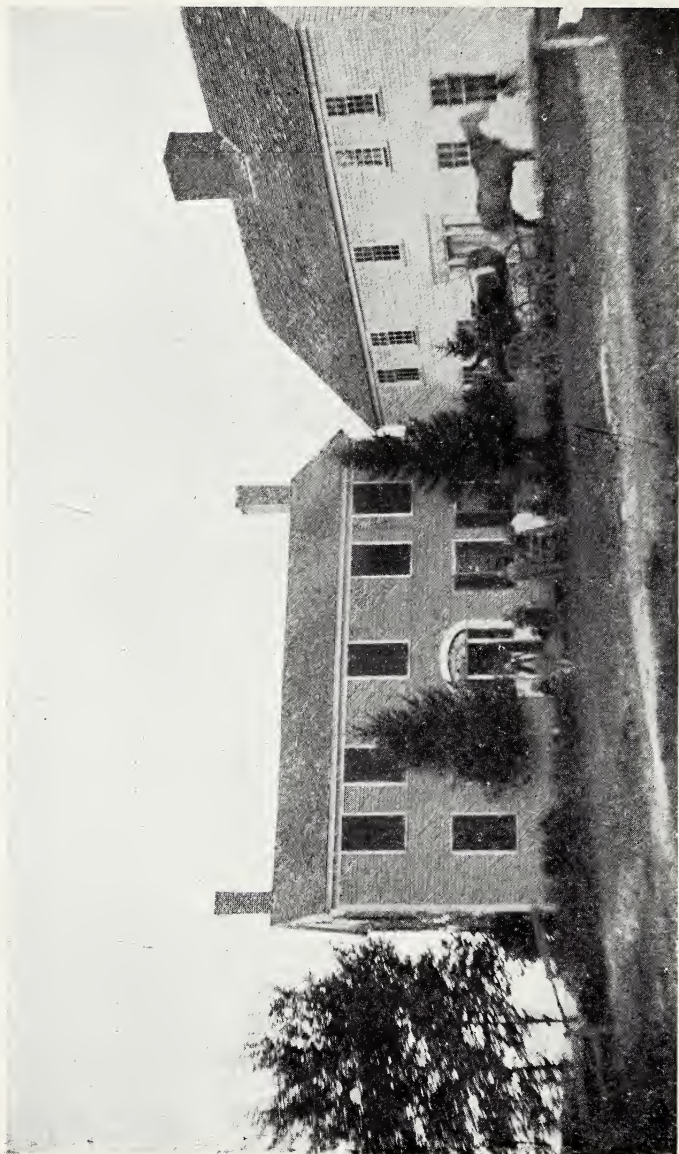
ings" and presently returned boots to the shops, having meanwhile been at work in some room at home, possibly in a small shop that sunned itself by the roadside. With the return of each "twelve-pair case" another was taken out unless, as too often happened, a wait was ordered, for a day or more, because no more stock was fitted. Thereby trials came to needy wage-earners, and undoubtedly to their employer also.

As already noted the shop became too strait for the demand made by a growing business. As relief a similar building was moved from the Sally Cunningham grounds, nearby, and ranged alongside the overcrowded one. A generous overflow soon filled all the added space. This second shop is still on the site, a dilapidated and idle watcher of the quiet roadway and still fields, instead of a hive of bustling industry on lively village street.

What tales could be told of the years when this factory so pulsed with eager life. There social plans were made and force for their execution accumulated. There tongues were busy after the ride, the picnic, the party, the singing school and the spelling match. Gossip was vital, sometimes, alas, destructive. Politics had a day, a month. Business, however, was ever first and foremost. There were few written records, and most of the actors of those days are with the silent majority, quiet as the shop that once they thronged.

Farther enlargement at North Spencer was assured by the rental and use of Wilson's store and stage barn. Lewis had finished a brief course at Leicester academy and been taken by his father into partnership. He began at once to show the vigor which later appeared in the factories at Spencer.

Presently effort was made to secure more real estate in North Spencer. As this failed and as the distance from the market and from the railway at South Spencer became an increasing hindrance to the firm the outlook for a better location was soon an urgent matter. In due time the estate of the Rev. Levi Packard, at the center, was purchased and a large factory built on the lot. This factory abutted directly on the driveway to the horsesheds in rear of the Methodist Episcopal church. As the entrance to the factory was on that way the same was used for all cartage to and from the shop. The horsesheds also proved to be very convenient for incidental storage. A chaise that came to the family by the first marriage was for years thus housed and until the "boys" brought it forth to embellish a street parade. By that service and usage the honored vehicle of many pleasing memories passed to oblivion, as did that other "One hoss shay" of Dr. Holmes' famous poem.



HOME OF CAPTAIN ISAAC PROUTY.

Side Lines at North Spencer.

Before noting developments at the new factory a brief glimpse of certain side activities at the old headquarters must be given. Captain Prouty was in a measure a farmer also. There were always cows in stock as well as an excellent horse. Large pastures were filled with grazing herds in the summer. He pastured the cows of the village neighbors and took pay in labor. He killed bees from his stock and distributed the meat, on account, among his workmen. Groceries were supplied in like manner after the closing of Mr. Wilson's store. Sometimes the cheaper grades of boots were traded for general household supplies and these, in turn, went to the homes about him when not wanted at his own. Thus in many ways he was a most important factor of common life at North Spencer. In all, his personal interest was in mind. Advancement was a necessity of his life.

New Factories.

The first of these at the center of the town has already been mentioned. It was a three-story frame building, 30 by 60 feet. Two sons, Lewis and George, were now partners with their father. Lewis having shared largely in the conduct of the business at North Spencer was made the manager in the new shop. Machinery was increased in order to lessen cost and enlarge the production of the company. A few prosperous years brought imperative demand for yet more space. To meet this necessity the Mason estate at the foot of the hill was bought and the present "Big Shop," in part was built. This structure was of five stories with a basement, its dimensions 42 by 104 feet. The basement was fitted up with an engine and boiler for motive power and heat.

Business was transferred to these larger quarters in 1864. Charles N., the elder son by the second marriage, was taken into the firm. Production continued to increase. The new factory was soon enlarged by adding to its length 130 feet of like breadth and height. A new engine with adequate boilers was supplied to meet the growing call for power and heat. Every way expansion was in order.

Deaths.

In the midst of this great development illness came. Captain Prouty and his son Lewis were seriously ill with pneumonia. In a few, brief days both these rugged, pushing men were at the end of earthly contests and labor. From the busy tumult of shop and mart they thus swiftly passed to the quietness of death. The astute head of the house and the success-

ful, resourceful manager of its complex affairs would no more be in control.

This stroke, unexpected and severe, brought a

Crisis

in the history of the firm. The deceased members thereof had bought and sold. They and they only, had the essential knowledge of the market. They alone had the development and strength that comes by buying stock and selling products in the crowded mart. The younger members of the house had carried other burdens and when thus suddenly called to leadership had little preparation for the urgent needs of the situation. But they were of the same vigorous stock and swiftly rose to the demands and presently carried the business to yet larger proportions. The younger brother, Jason W., was admitted and the firm continued to be Isaac Prouty & Company.

The shop was again enlarged and again until its generous dimensions are 600 feet length by 42 in width, five stories, with basement. Two large brick storehouses for stock and products have been erected in addition, and yet another brick building in which lasts, wooden boxes and cartons are made. The "Big Shop" is divided into fire-proof sections. Other safeguards against fire have been provided, incandescent lighting has been introduced; a 350 horse power engine supplies motor-force and four 100 horse power boilers furnish steam for the engine and heat for the factory.

In 1872 the product reached 20,000 cases valued at \$500,000. In 1886 the output was valued at \$2,075,000. In 1903 at \$2,500,000.

Incorporation.

In 1894 the Isaac Prouty Company was incorporated, thus providing for the perpetuity of the firm and for the industry which one man of the common people without adventitious aids founded and of which he saw generous and continued development in his own lifetime, and at its close passed it to his sons who had already inherited and manifested much of the vigor and force native to himself.

From this review of the industry originated and carried forward by Mr. Prouty it is time to turn to more direct observation and study of his personal

Characteristics.

Physically Captain Isaac Prouty was of kindly proportions. His frame was well-knit and vigorous. A man hardy and fitted for the sturdy battle of life. His face is recalled

as heavy, sober, if not severe. Certainly it could put on severity. Yet all this was simply indicative of brooding and abiding thoughtfulness and constant application to assumed tasks. He gave to work the generous forces with which nature had endowed him. At North Spencer he was one of the four or five men who never stopped to play. Not that he was without the element of play or that he failed to be playful. His children had a native delight in play, had ample time for play allowed them, though early set to work of some sort. There were no more royal playfellows at North Spencer than the children of Captain Prouty. He himself loved to tell stories while all the time steadily pushing some business then in hand. His sense and command of that elusive and beneficent quality Americans call humor and which they love, giving it large place, was real, albeit the manifestation thereof was often somewhat grim. One sample may be given.

A young builder, who was wont to receive loans from Captain Prouty for use in his enterprises, having one day negotiated a loan, on taking the money ventured the opinion that in fairness the lender should bear the burden of putting on record the mortgage tendered as security. The argument was suddenly closed by a sharp call for the immediate return of the money. Of course the matter ended there. The loan remained with the borrower, but the inward feast of humor was largely with the lender, who was really much less grim than his words.

Mr. Prouty had large capacity for work. Like many others he may have had to learn the love of labor—that essential of success. But as remembered by those yet in their cradles when he had won the sinews of manhood he was a tireless toiler. Early and late he was busy with affairs. In the earlier days at his shop he was cutter, he gave out work to stitchers, siders and bottomers, looked over their work when returned, went to market with goods behind his faithful gray horse and returned with loads of stock for more products. He was an ambitious man, ambitious for himself and for his family, as his children, some of them, came to know when love kindled its holy fires in their souls. Though dressed as simply as those who toiled in his shops for wages, though his home was plain like theirs and his table no more sumptuous, it is hardly too much to say that no more imperial nature sunned itself under Spencer skies than this plain man who could be seen daily, if seen at all, in the common dress of working men.

He sought large things for self and for his household and strongly held that money had uplift for those who could command it, that business and estate made vantage and as-

sured social position, recognition and power. Yet with these strong ideals and ambitions he never put aside the plain habits of the common people among whom his life began. His dress never passed the severe limits known in the beginning of the struggle for advancement. He wore the same garments when in Worcester on business errands as about the shops, and was as unconscious in the one place as in the other.

Sometimes this plainness of dress led to striking conditions. In the street at Worcester with a wagon load of boots by a collision he was thrown to the ground and picked up by bystanders disabled and apparently without sense of his injury. As he seemed a poor, working man it was proposed to take him to the police station for public care. Just then Captain Prouty slowly pushed his hand within his soiled and well-worn vest and drew forth a rotund pocket book and soon made someone understand his desire for immediate medical attention and his ability to pay for the same.

The ambitious purposes of the man did not push him away from the simplicity of common life. He loved a garden and kept an acquaintance with work in a garden to the close of life. Early in spring he was wont himself to spade up his plot of ground, going over it again and again for very pleasure in the foraging of a flock of chickens that followed ever for worms and insects. He enjoyed the battle with weeds and marked with eager delight the growth of stalk and vine, blossom and fruit. His garden toil was ever in the fragrant mornings and before breakfast, and at Spencer just as at North Spencer. Doubtless he found, as do others still, an added rest at his table because of such morning exercise and by the fruit thereof in dewy greens, edible roots and luscious berries.

It should be said that while this man pushed thus vigorously for himself and his household, while he loved independence and purposed to make it sure for self and home, he was apparently pleased that other men about him should be dependent on his thought and ability. Perhaps there was a subconscious force of heredity that influenced him, a breath of the older life of his people, of the days when one well-born man was landlord and master and all others henchmen and dependents.

Eagerness for personal advancement may have, at times, blinded him to the interest of the many, and in some measure to his own. For the employer rises as his employes are lifted in the scale of prosperity and being. Real estate anywhere appreciates with the general advance of individual holders. Man is social. We are "members one of another."

The fact that sometimes Captain Prouty's workmen at North Spencer in the earlier days were compelled to wait for work because either "uppers" or "bottom stock" was not fitted, added to the matter already noted that this employer was by no means averse to having others about him as dependents on his will and power, hardly proves him to have been forgetful of their interest. His burdens were many. He followed no well-beaten familiar path. He was a pioneer. With his own hands he toiled variously every day. Was his own bookkeeper, bought and sold in the market himself, did his own carting, thinking out the plans essential to his complex task as he drove the dusty highways and as he stood at the cutter's bench in the shop or visited his grazing herd in the pastures. The factory was not ruled by system as the factories of today. Naturally confusion sometimes had place and manifold delay, by which all interests suffered. Remedies were slowly evolved and little by little improved service came.

Undoubtedly this pioneer in the great boot and shoe industry of Spencer and New England had in his virile nature not a little selfishness. This has been stoutly affirmed by some. Well, selfishness has been a mainspring of much helpful movement in this world. Whatever may be said of boot and shoe manufacturers as being unmindful of their employes and moved with greed for self-enrichment, they will bear comparison with railway kings, with the coal and steel barons and other magnates of the world of production and distribution.

Whatever abatement should be made for Captain Prouty's dominating purpose to push by his fellows in the race for wealth, for any lack of clear and kindly recognition of the needs and rights of his workmen, for such close and constant pursuit of personal interests as left little time or strength for the more public activities and duties of American citizenship, for deferred and infrequent study of Christian obligations and possibilities of development for himself and the household given him to lead in the ways of righteousness and upward to Heaven itself, in view of all faults and failings whatsoever, it may fairly, yes, stoutly, be affirmed that here was a man. A man, virile, astute, ambitious. A man with powers for large things. A man who lifted self and household higher in estate and possibility of public service.

In his home youth dreamed of strength, of beauty, of worthy deeds, and in that home such dreams came true. Here, indeed, was one of the common people, one of Spencer's own sons, but only a 'prentice boy, who lived plainly, toiled steadily, did some real thinking, wrestled courageously with hindrance and difficulty, ceasing not till past the threescore years of

strength and then by evil force of disease bringing death. A man who laid foundations for an industry affording opportunity to many and an outlook for future industrial beneficence.

It has already appeared that the full force of this man was given to his chosen business. Yet sometime in the early years of manhood service in the militia of the State was rendered and rank as captain was attained. The service ceased with the changed usages of the commonwealth, but the title stayed with the man till the end and abides with his memory.

He was long a member of the parish, connected with the Congregational church of Spencer. From an early date he owned two pews in its meeting house. In the crowded days of his North Spencer life he was not often at church. The Sabbath, however, always was a day of quiet. The busy shop was a place of peace. His second wife was a member of the church, a devout woman loving to send a carriage-load churchward Sunday morning and going herself when home cares and strength permitted. The older children often attended the Baptist church at Jocktown.

Captain Prouty appears to have been thoughtful for the welfare of the church to which he so long held the relation of a parishioner. Thoughtfulness must have deepened and become more involved with his own religious needs at the time of general awakening in Spencer, when several of his children were interested and some of them united with the church.

In his late years he expressed, again and again, his desire for the remodelling of the church edifice, purposing to assign \$5,000 in aid of such movement. After his sudden removal his heirs tendered that amount to the Congregational church, asking that it be recognized as a memorial of him. He also remembered the Methodist Episcopal church. The use of its driveway for his first factory at the center was not forgotten. Just a little before his departure he asked his children to present that church a bell. In due time this request was made good. The service of the bell has been enjoyed for years and perhaps the bell thus given may continue to call men to the worship of God and the sanctity of the Sabbath through the centuries.

In his closing hours he said: "I might have had more money to leave my children, but as it is I think I leave enough for their good." Doubtless he then came to clearer vision of real values. The hour was a pathetic one. He knew his life-force was ebbing. His day of toil and struggle was ending. The strong son who had been as another right hand for twenty

years, lay in like helplessness near by. Death was at hand. Thus the end came.

Another view of the man may be. His children by their character and deeds indicate his qualities. Of the living it is not the time to write. But of the group that came by the first marriage of Captain Prouty something may now be written—for they are not here.

John G., the eldest, was one of the young men of promise in Spencer. At the beginning of joint business effort with his father at North Spencer, the late Charles E. Denny offered him a partnership, which was accepted. Later he was in like relation with Hon. David Prouty of noble memory. All too early his years were numbered and finished. If long life had been assured, a leading place in the town would have easily been his.

Lewis W., as boy and man exhibited an affluent nature. Whatever he had—and he was never without something to divide—he wished to share it with some schoolmate or friend. None of his schoolmates forgot his generous love of play, his ready vigor in study, his sturdy courage. With that he met discipline and punishment when eagerness in play had carried him to some breaking of a rule or some disorderliness. Repeated blows of a sixteen inch birchen ruler smartly laid on the open palm brought no tears, no lowering of his boyish, yet manly crest. It was not strange that his boy-mates admired him and prized his friendship. To be his seat-mate was a prize indeed. Neither was it strange that the girls blushed as they met him and knew a quickening pulse as they looked on him. Not strange that one of them carried through all her days a glowing love for him that because of adverse circumstances could never have adequate expression, yet by its beauty, its holy fire, knew her own being enriched and blessed for aye.

In business the affluence of the boy-nature swelled to the fulness of manhood. The friendships ripened to those of maturity. When he was about to enter Leicester academy, he sought to take one of his boyish mates as a companion in study. Lions seeming to bar the way, Lewis turned from his schoolmate to the parent and urged his suit there. It was in vain, albeit the pleader won fresh favor. That boy was by several years his junior. His parents were poor. Though failing of continued companionship with his senior in study and in academic halls, the remembrance that he was desired and sought for such fellowship has been abiding pleasure.

In mature years the paths of these sometime schoolmates divulged more and more. Across the space, after years without contact even by mail, a letter came in prompt response to

one written by the junior, a letter enclosing a check from Lewis W. Prouty for twice the amount asked for sacred use in the church of God. Such memories are precious.

Lewis' wealth of nature made him a man of resource, as experience ripened him, for the high tasks of a captain of industry and manager of the complex business he had helped to develop on the foundations laid by his father.

For the major part of his life he appears to have had slight interest in the things of religion. But in the well remembered awakening under the ministry of the Rev. Mr. Cruickshanks his interest became positive. He did not unite with the church as did his brother, George. Possibly he would have done so, later, if life had been prolonged. But in other ways he evinced a new quality of service and character. His voice was not heard in Christian testimony in public, yet by affording free carriage to gospel meetings at the schoolhouse where once he was busy at study and play, and to other points as freely—by generous use of money and by a reverent bearing he showed somewhat of a new life. Then, suddenly, all earthly activity ceased. The book of his life with its freshening interest was closed.

George P. Prouty, the third son, was an active and valued member of the firm for a long term. He was a force for economy and commercial honor. As noted above, he was a member of the Congregational church. In business activity, Christian fellowship and in manifold home comfort he reached a riper age than either of his full brothers, or the one sister of whom also a brief record must here be made.

Ellen S. Prouty as child, maid and woman was ever greatly beloved. She won such recognition by high qualities. Of her Jean Ingelow's fine line may be written: "Sweeter woman ne'er drew breath." It is not exaggeration to write that in youth she was loved by every North Spencer boy. She awoke ideals that rose above herself. Many of the boys were content with the ideals thus awakened within. To these she became a type of the true woman. The woman man honors and loves as mother, sister, wife, daughter and friend—woman that lifts earth skyward.

Some, however, had wilder dreams—held her sacredly and passionately as sweetheart and dared to think of a future of which she should be the blissful center. These daring dreams passed and disappointment and pain came when a claimant from without the immediate environment won her love and led her to the altar.

This, however, occurred at Spencer after her father's removal from North Spencer. The man who thus welcomed to

his heart and hearth this richly endowed woman, was Hezekiah P. Starr, a brother-in-law of Hon. Erastus Jones. He was later a successful boot manufacturer in town.

Alas, the years allotted this charming woman were few. The brevity of her life makes it seem incomplete. She should have had the full, strong years of matrimony and motherhood, and then the glory of ripened age. A fair grandmother, white-haired and reverent of face, is one of the noblest visions allowed to mortal men.

In this case such grace was not given. In early wedded life the end came. But the soberness by early death could not dim the light this life had already given those whom it had touched. All youthful life at North Spencer had been illumined by the light glowing in the fair face of this daughter of Captain Prouty's home. Boys and girls were made the better by her common, widely-bestowed kindness, her sweet friendship, and the very grace of her being. Her memory, too, is luminous.

That so much vigor, so much affluence of nature, so much loveliness, was manifested by his children is unmistakable evidence that Captain Isaac Prouty, however his family may have been strengthened and enriched by the wives given him as helpmates, was a man of genuine nobility and worth.

As such a man, as one who showed force of being by pushing from nothing to open recognition in the realm of large affairs, and from poverty to wealth, it will be well to keep his memory green. Other lads, and men, too, need the inspiration such a life brings. Inspiration to thought, to effort, prudence and the persistent toil ever essential to man's advancement. Inspiration to the sober faith that it is better to make one's own way upward than to be simply an inheritor of wealth and position. Better to win strength and goodness than great riches.

BIOGRAPHY OF JOSIAH GREEN THE ORIGINAL SALE BOOT MANUFACTURER.

BY HIS SON IN LAW, JOSEPH W. TEMPLE.

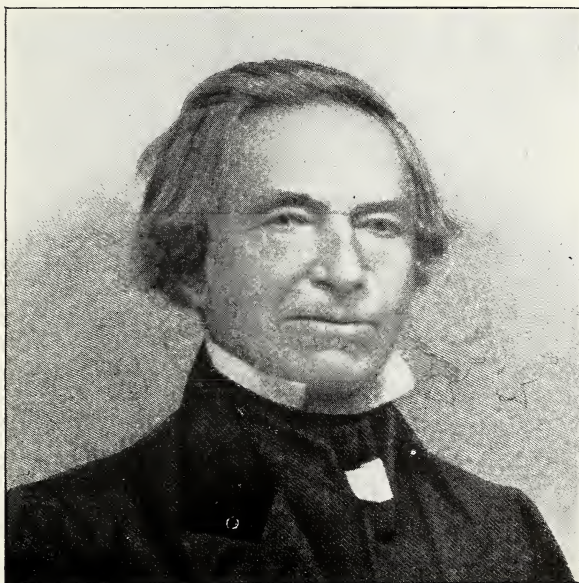
The subject of this sketch was a descendant of the Thomas Greene who was born about 1606 and came to this country from Leicestershire, England, probably in the ship *Paul* in 1635. The name was spelled, in the early records, with the final "e", but a great majority of the descendants have dropped this vowel. The line of descent, to the sixth generation, is as follows, viz. : Thomas 1, Henry 2, Joseph 3, Jabez 4, Jabez, Jr., 5, Josiah 6.

Jabez Green, Jr., was born in Stoneham, Mass., June 13, 1743, and married Lucy Kent, daughter of Ebenezer Kent of Leicester, Mass., Aug. 9, 1764. By this marriage there were six children. She died about 1784. In 1786 he married Hannah Willis, of Hardwick, and there were nine children by this marriage. Josiah Green, the fourth of the latter family, was born in Leicester, Aug. 9, 1792.

His early education was necessarily limited, as in the economy of the family the children's time was an indispensable factor in their support, and they could not take advantage, even of the short allowance of the schooling, in those days.

The greater part of his early life was occupied upon the farm, but in the fall of 1811 he, and his elder brother Nathaniel, undertook the manufacture of sewed shoes, as a business hazard. They began with a capital of five dollars and forty cents, in the house of John Hubbard, a near neighbor, and their mother raised and spun the flax, and made the thread used in the manufacture of their work. The leather used for their goods was the split remnants of card leather, such as was used by the card manufacturers of Leicester. This was taken to the leather dresser, one Abel Chapman of Leicester, oiled,

blackened and finished, ready for use. Their product, during the winter, was a "one-horse" load, or about 230 pairs, and in early spring they were taken to Boston, by Josiah, to be disposed of. This was a large amount of goods to be offered upon the market at one time, and only one party, an auctioneer, was found willing to undertake the sale of them. He purchased six pairs at two dollars and thirty cents per pair, with the privilege of the lot, if the venture should prove a success. It was satisfactory and he took the balance. Receiving the money for them, Mr. Green purchased leather to make up an-



JOSIAH GREEN.

other lot, and returned home. The second load was completed and sold with satisfactory results.

In 1814 they made a "two horse" load, designed for the Albany market, but these were sold to some army speculators before reaching Albany, at two dollars and twenty-seven cents per pair. Two years later, the brothers found they had accumulated three thousand dollars, and the elder proposed that they retire from business and purchase, each, a farm. The partnership was dissolved and Nathaniel moved to Maine and bought him a farm, but Josiah continued in the manufacture of boots.

In 1816 he came to Spencer and September 4th he married Tamer, daughter of Robert Watson of Leicester. He had just purchased the farm, which later on was owned and occupied by the late Samuel Adams, using one room in the dwelling as his shop. This was his first year for making pegged boots and for a while all the pegs he used were made by himself, with the aid of a common shoe knife.

The plan of disposing of this new product was a novel one. It was to take them around the country, in a one or two-horse wagon, to sell, or return, when called for and on his next trip collect for what had been sold and if the arrangement proved mutually satisfactory, they would assort up the sizes and continue the relations. These "sale boots" were denounced in the strongest terms, by the village and traveling shoemaker.

Oct. 13, 1820 his wife died and one year later he married Sybil, daughter of Dea. Reuben Underwood of Spencer and by their marriage they reared a family of eight children. In 1831 he purchased the homestead upon which he resided until his decease, Dec. 28, 1876, and the room in the old mansion, (now used as parlor), was his work shop until 1834. This year he built and occupied a small factory opposite his dwelling, on the Great Post road. His boots had a wide reputation and were extensively known as "Green's Boots."

He was alone in his business until 1852, when his son Henry R. and son-in-law Emory Shumway, were admitted as partners. The latter left the concern in '56 and was succeeded by Edward, youngest son of Mr. Green. He retired from the firm in '65 and his interest was purchased by his brother Jonas U. In '66 Mr. Green, Sr., retired from the business, leaving his interest to his oldest son, Josiah, Jr., who remained in the firm until his decease in 1886. Jonas U. retired from the firm in '77 and Henry R. in '87. The business was continued for a few years, and was conducted by Charles H., son of Henry R., and A. F. Southwick, son-in-law of Josiah, Jr.

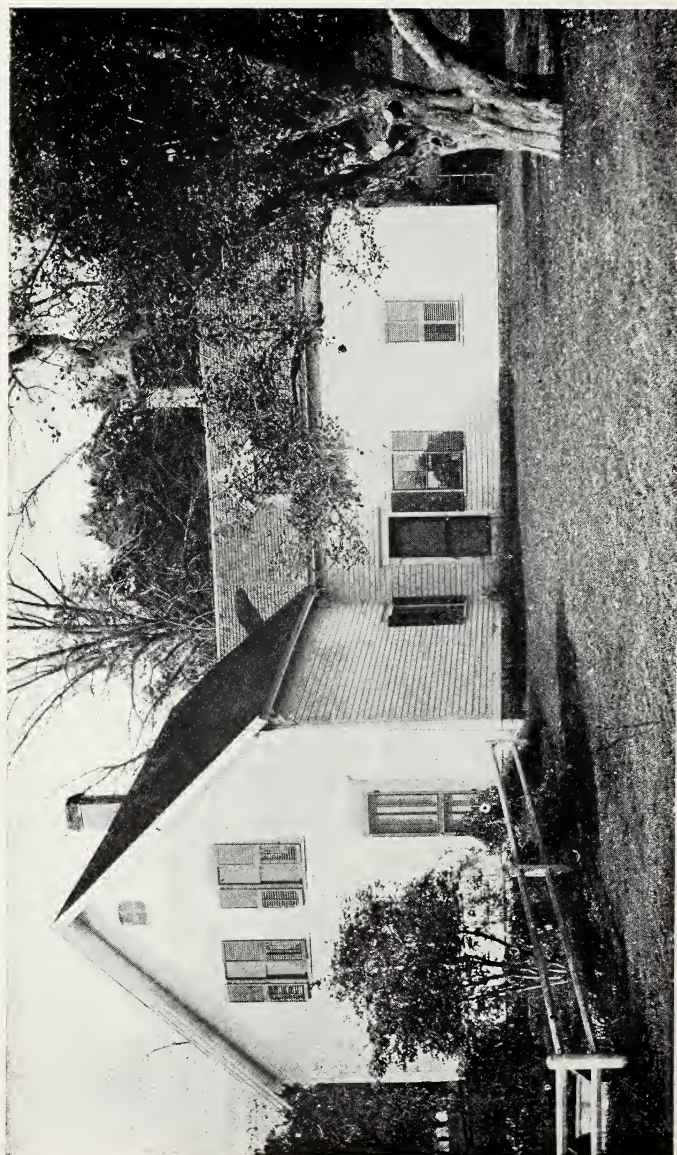
Mr. Green was emphatically a self made man, well endowed with the faculty or power of perceiving and in active business life was a man of more than ordinary ability. As an old-school man, he was among the foremost in his line of trade and noted for vigor, indomitable perseverance, and an iron will. His careful and judicious management enabled him to pass the several notable seasons of depression and disastrous failures, in the business community, commencing with 1837, prepared at any time to meet all his liabilities with one hundred cents on every dollar of his indebtedness.

For more than half a century he was closely identified with the business interests, growth and prosperity of Spencer, and it was a source of gratification, in his declining years to feel that he had been instrumental in contributing to such a grand result. "Learning the trade," in those days, meant a thorough knowledge of the business in all its details and when these were felt to be mastered, many of his workmen left his employ to engage in the business on their own account. According to the laws of business some were a success, and some a failure. Of the former class the most successful of his apprentices were Charles E. Denny and Asa T. Jones.

Mr. Green was a frugal man in habits, but in no wise parsimonious and for the days in which he lived, his business ventures returned him an ample fortune. He had kindly feelings toward his help, for he always believed that "the laborer was worthy of his hire." He enjoyed his family, was a generous provider and an indulgent parent.

ADAMS' ROCK ON DAVID'S HILL, SOUTH SPENCER.

David Adams from Medway was an early immigrant to Spencer and in 1734 settled on lot 65, a mile or more southwest from South Spencer on land now owned by Joseph Dumas. He was the ancestor of nearly all the numerous Adams families who have since lived in Spencer and Brookfield. David's Hill commands an extensive and beautiful view of country for miles around. As one ascends the hill from the North on its western slope there will be found two large rows of trees and underbrush running north and south. About midway between these rows of trees lies David's Rock, perhaps twelve to fifteen feet long, four to six feet high and six to eight feet wide, nearly flat on its top. This stone was utilized by Mr. Adams as the eastern side of his original cabin in which he lived about two years. A portion of the stone also served as the back side to his fireplace. It was in this cabin probably that the infant child, Margaret, of David Adams, died and from where it was carried to be the first person buried in the old cemetery. The land on this farm is said to be better for grass than any other in town. Rufus Adams, a grandson of David, lived here a long time and in addition to farming made a business of fattening cattle for the market. He acquired a competence and in 1850 was said to have been the wealthiest man in town. He was grandfather to Rufus Adams Sibley, proprietor of Moose Hill farm.



LARGEST APPLE TREE IN TOWN. ON LEWIS HILL PLACE, HILLSVILLE.

THE BIG TREES OF SPENCER

With the exception of the elms, the very large trees are all gone. The writer remembers a pine cut on the Daniel Whittemore farm that was said to have made twenty-five hundred feet of lumber. The largest pine standing in town probably is in a run on cranberry meadow brook before it reaches the railroad. This pine is about three feet in diameter, but shows the marks of age. The largest oak in town, hoary with age and showing decrepitude in all its branches, is on the Ruel Jones farm and measures fourteen feet in circumference. There is also on the place an unusually large white or paper birch for this section and time. The coon chestnut tree is also on this farm as shown in cut and has a girth of sixteen feet. The beautiful Wilson Elm is south east Spencer

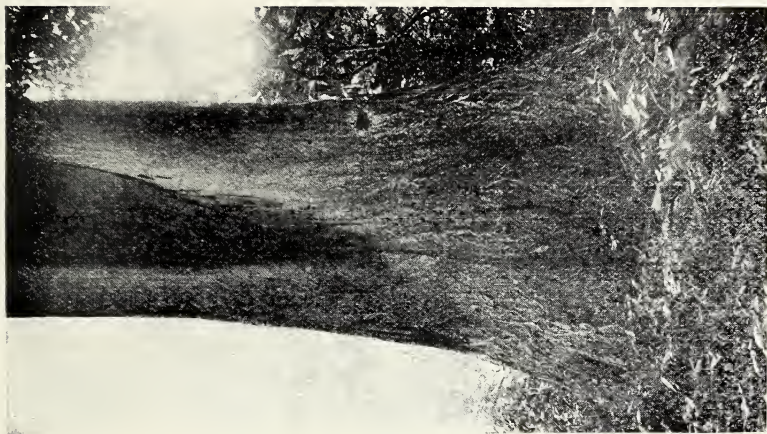


LARGEST WHITE OAK IN TOWN. THE JOSHUA HILL PLACE IN DISTANCE.

measures seventeen and a half feet in circumference and is still vigorous. The largest tree in town, an elm, is on the farm recently owned by Leonard Bisco. This measures twenty-one feet in diameter, but its great age is visible, in many places going to decay. The Hillsville Elm is said to have been set out by one of the early Hill settlers in that section and is in its prime. The largest white oak in town, some three feet in diameter, is on the road leading to the old Joshua Hill farm at Hillsville. The largest apple tree is on the Lewis Hill place at Hillsville.



HILLSVILLE ELM.



LARGE CHESTNUT ON FARM OF THE LATE
RUEL JONES.

At top, though indistinct, is a noted coon hole.



LARGEST TREE IN TOWN. ELM ON LEONARD BISCO FARM.



HAZARY WILSON FARM, SOUTHSIDE. BIG ELM.

THE SPENCER MUSEUM

A museum for Spencer was a conception of the writer. He interested Elias Hall, Dr. C. P. Barton, J. W. Temple and Nathan Hersey in the project and a meeting was called at Caucus hall in December of 1873, to devise ways and means. The writer and Mr. Hall only were present but at an adjourned meeting all five were present. Steps were then taken to promote an interest in the subject and a circular of which the following is a copy was sent to everyone whom the committee thought might be interested in the subject :

To the Citizens and Former Residents of Spencer :

1. The object of this society is to collect and preserve, in a permanent manner and under suitable guardianship, all old and valuable Historical and Antiquarian Documents, Relics and Valuables.

2. It is hoped that the citizens of Spencer will consider it a pleasant DUTY to collect (or given information where it may be collected,) any article that would be of interest to the Museum.

3. There are very many persons scattered over the country, who do now, and ever will, claim an interest in the town of Spencer, for various reasons, and all such are specially invited to send contributions of such articles or relics as shall add to the interest of the collections already accumulating.

4. The kind of contributions desired are as follows, viz :

- (a) Ancient Books, Manuscripts, Deeds, Military Commissions or Documents.
- (b) Indian Relics, Relics of Revolutionary and Indian Wars, and of the late Rebellion.
- (c) Articles of Dress or Paraphernalia from the uncivilized portion of the earth.
- (d) Specimens of Rare and Ancient Coins, Currency of "1775", and, also, of the late war, both Union and Confederate.
- (e) Mineral and Geological Specimens or anything pertaining to Natural History.
- (f) Rare Paintings, Engravings and Pictures or Statuary.
- (g) In fact anything that will tend to make the collection valuable, instructive and interesting.

- (h) This institution is intended, in time, to be placed under the supervision of the town and will be open at all hours to citizen and visitor, and if carefully fostered will prove valuable as an educator of the people.
- (i) Autographs of prominent men of the town, from "ye olden tyme" to the present, and also of the prominent men of our country.

5. Contributions of every kind may at present be left with, or forwarded to HENRY M. TOWER, NATHAN HERSEY, ELIAS HALL or J. W. TEMPLE.

Spencer, January 1, 1874.

One of the ante rooms at the Town hall was obtained for the exhibition of articles donated. One hundred dollars was secured by vote of the town to aid the work and in order to make the vote legal it was all voted "for shelves," although but a small portion was used for that purpose. It is now thirty years since the museum first took form and in that time a valuable collection of articles has been donated which are on exhibition in fine cases at the Public Library. Some of these are of priceless value as historical relics while a duplicate of the fine specimen of a buffalo head, contributed years ago by Luther Hill when buffaloes were plentiful could not now be purchased in the open market for less than five hundred dollars. What is now needed is a complete catalogue of articles in the museum, with history and names of donors. This would quadruple its value to the public. The writer is assured there are other articles of value which would find their way to the museum if there was more room and better facilities for exhibition. What is needed for this purpose is a second story to the library building.

RUEL JONES

BY ALBERT WARREN, FORMERLY PRINCIPAL OF THE SPENCER HIGH SCHOOL.

In a local history there is a place not only for the lives, doings, and sayings of those who have greatly distinguished themselves in their several spheres in life ; but also of those who, though living in more humble walks, have exerted no little influence in the neighborhood, town, or locality in which they have lived. A narrative of such lives, is important, if not essential, to the proper presentation of the many subtle influences which bring about the events that go to make up what we call local history.

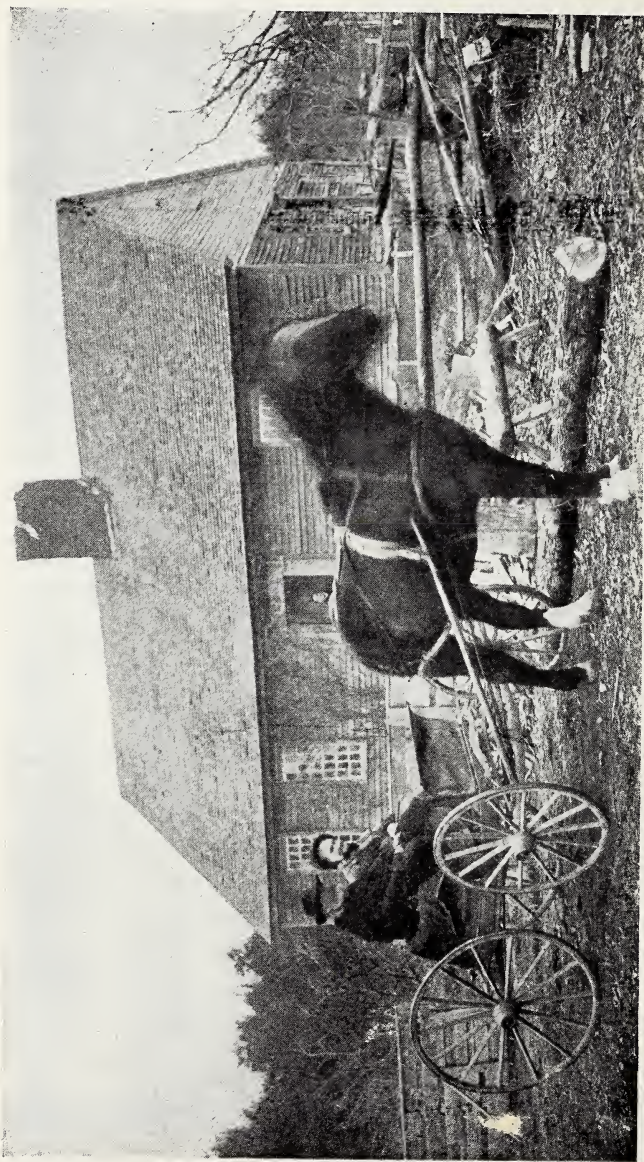
Among those, who for this reason are entitled to a place in the history of Spencer, is Ruel Jones.

He was the son of Josiah and Hannah Jones, and was born Jan. 20, 1813, about half a mile south west of the George Wilson old farm in the south east part of Spencer, where Mr. Jones lived for many years before his death, which occurred Apr. 4, 1888. The cellar hole of the house where he was born still remains.

His wife was Laurinda White, great grand daughter of Lieut. John White, who settled in Spencer as early as 1748 or 9 on Lot 68, having purchased the same of Jacob Shaw of Leicester for £400, "Lawful Bills of Credit." This was the place where Mr. Baxter Clark lived at the time of his death.

Ruel Jones was a country boy, born and brought up on a farm. His occupation in life was in the main that of a farmer. He worked some, however, at the carpenter's trade and engaged for awhile in the manufacture of wooden boxes. Having injured his hand in a saw mill he taught school for a winter's term in District No. 2.

What little education he had, he received at the district school. His own statement is : "I commenced school under Warren Hobbs in District No. 10, always after that term attending District No. 1. During the time I attended this school, my memory points to nine different teachers. From this re-



RUEL JONES.

This is an excellent likeness of Mr. Jones in its general outlines, but the photograph from which the half tone was taken was so indistinct in detail that it would not have been used if a better one had been obtainable. The present picture was taken in his old age at his residence in the south east part of Spencer, as he was seated in a wagon ready to go to town.

mark, found in an address delivered at a reunion of the old scholars of District No. 1 some years ago, it is evident that his school privileges were quite limited. It was, however, what may be called a good, fair, common school education for that day, but would be entirely inadequate to the requirements of the present time. It should not be forgotten that there are other sources of education than school books, or school masters. The best and greatest opportunities for education come to a man after he has bidden good bye to the school room. The common school is the foundation; "graduation is the commencement" of a greater and broader education. From the school the student passes on to life's university. It was in this university that Ruel Jones received his greater education.

About the year 1840 there was in school District No. 1 a debating society or lyceum. Of this organization he was a prominent and active member. The writer has in his possession fourteen well written arguments on various questions which were debated before the lyceum. Also an agricultural address delivered by him at one of its meetings.

It was here, without doubt, that he acquired that habit of ready speaking and quick repartee for which he was famous. Here he exercised his oratorical powers and developed his wonderful ability as a debater.

As an instrumentality for making good public speakers, nothing has yet been devised with all our modern improved methods of education, to take the place of, or to equal the old fashioned debating society or lyceum of our fathers. To this lyceum he himself attributed his success as a public speaker. I quote his own words, taken from one of these debates on the equality of all men: "We are links in a long chain, let us see that each takes care to inform himself and others to the extent of his ability. Dr. Franklin with three associates formed a debating club and drew from it such advantages that he recorded it among his privileges for getting information, and I can testify, although I know comparatively little, that a part of that little I got from a social lyceum. Where a number of men are in conversation together, one mind acts on another and an interest is awakened. Subjects long lain dormant are again planted fresh in our memory; and others, of which we have but little knowledge, are discussed and we become more acquainted with them; for there is no man whose abilities are so small, but what he will advance some new idea."

Nature endowed him with great oratorical talents, but the lyceum gave them development so that when he rose to speak

in public, he commanded the expectant attention of all ;* for he always had something to say, and an interesting way of saying it. His words still live in the memories of the older citizens of Spencer. If his environment had been different or, if he had not been lacking certain elements of character, he might have been one of the greatest orators of his day.

In politics he was a democrat and a fearless advocate of what he considered to be democratic principles. He was true to his convictions even during the war of the rebellion, when to be so, exposed him to the charge of disloyalty to the Union and the lawless treatment of the baser elements of society. For the frank avowal of his principles at that time, he was shamefully treated in an adjoining town* and charged with disloyalty in his own. He repudiated the charge. He was conscientious in his convictions. From his view point he was a loyal and patriotic citizen. On this subject we will let him speak for himself. After defining the loyal man as the man "who obeys the mandates of the Constitution and the laws pursuant to it," and the disloyal man, as the man "who disobeys that instrument, or the laws under it," he says : "We find in every community a class of men who support no dignity of character and are quite lost to all sense of shame. They are always ready to show their loyalty by violating the law in regard to either property or person; and yet they get very sensitive and nice in regard to those who differ from them.

"There is another class who, at least, make a show of manhood and would not openly trample upon the laws, or violate the rights of others simply to avenge a difference of opinion; yet they will silently countenance the acts of the former. They are devoutly loyal, and all that are opposed to them are the reverse. Now, for my part, I would as soon think of a man's meriting salvation by being a faithful disciple of the devil, as I would think of his becoming a loyal man by approving of the unlawful acts of others."

*This was literally true. In his prime silence reigned in town meetings when he arose to speak, for all were anxious to hear what he had to say. While his thoughts were well worth listening to and fluently spoken, his natural and unaffected gestures were even more potent in holding his audiences, and would have given vitality and strength to the most ordinary language. He never appeared to speak with animosity, however much he differed from his opponents or however keen the shafts of wit or ridicule hurled against him. In fact he always seemed to be in perfect equipoise of mind and in admirable good feeling, albeit he often spoke with profound gravity. His arguments were generally preceded by a peculiar smile which at once put the audience in a sympathetic frame of mind and in the best of humor and this condition prevailed until the end. It was often said and generally believed that Luther Hill, a notice of whom appears elsewhere, feared him more in open debate than all other opponents combined and as the two men in general held diametrically opposite ideas in regard to town affairs, a forensic encounter between the two at each annual town meeting was looked forward to with interest by many of the citizens.

*See Historical sketches Vol. 2, Page 131.

In most matters he was conservative rather than aggressive, but in school matters he was of the progressive sort. Though he had no children of his own to educate, he was anxious that the children of others should have all the advantages of the best schools. His views on this subject are thus expressed : "As the time approaches for our schools to commence, those parents who have heretofore neglected to send their children to school, should bear in mind, that it is the purpose of those who pay the money for schools that all the children shall receive the benefits of it, and that no scattered plants of ignorance shall be allowed to grow up in our midst to cast their baneful influence upon the doings of those who have elevated their minds by study and prepared themselves to act well their part in those duties that will shortly devolve upon them."

As a matter of historical interest, it may not be out of place to refer again to the famous lyceum mentioned above. As conversation is an index to the heart and mind of a man, so the subjects of debate and the thoughts expressed before a society are an index to the character and quality of its meetings and also of its individual members.

The following are some of the questions debated : The possibility of holding a congress of nations for the settlement of international differences; proof of immortality without the aid of divine revelation; on the limiting of the elective franchise to native-born citizens; necessity of revelation to a knowledge of God; the greater evil, slavery or intemperance; and others of like character.

Before closing this article, I wish to give a few extracts from the writings of Mr Jones. Most of them are from debates delivered before the lyceum. The following extract showing his respect and reverence for the Bible, is from a debate in which he argued the knowledge of immortality without the aid of the Bible : "To lay aside that blessed volume, which we are bound to respect and obey, a volume whose illustrations extend far into the bounds of antiquity, a volume on whose sacred pages are founded the rights and privileges of mankind, a volume which has such an ennobling effect on all who live under its diffusion, a volume which stands paramount to all others in the sublimity of its contents, its style and adaptation to the literate and the illiterate, would seem, at first thought, to lay aside all proof of immortality of the soul. But such is not the case; for God has written all over his universe in golden letters, sufficient proof of the soul's immortality."

On another debate on another subject he said : "Put the Bible out of question and incredulity with its evening shadows will collect and brood over the imagination, until it will be hemmed in on every side by embarrassments and obstructions which no human wisdom can remove."

On slavery he said : "If we look at slavery, we shall at once discover, that the master is allowed to govern his slaves only by a sacrifice of self-government. This contributes to their mutual degradation and infuses itself into all their institutions, which produces a sickly state of government that will in time sop the whole foundation and leave the structure to decomposition."

Among his writings are two lectures on temperance, one of which and probably both were delivered before the Washingtonian society. Like many another man whose practice does not conform to his honest convictions of right and wrong, he had clear and positive views on the sale and use of intoxicating liquors. He placed the responsibility for the continuance of the rum traffic and rum drinking largely upon the friends and advocates of temperance. To this class he said : "But you with ample means stand by idle and see the work of destruction carried on; perhaps just muttering over a little sympathy for the poor murdered victim and expressing your sorrow that he should be so callous to his own welfare as to lose his life in such a manner. Murdered! yes, murdered! Although there is no outward gash or mangled flesh to strike us with dread, yet there is an inward wound made, from which trickles and flows continually the life blood until the work of death is surely consummated. Yet we only pity the foolishness of the man who dies. We look with composure upon the deadly weapon without offering to remove it or punish the assassin that used it."

Ruel Jones had his faults. He had likewise many virtues. The remembrance of these is sufficient reason for granting his request as expressed in his own words to the rising generation who he was addressing: "I ask you to deal gently with your memories. Spread kindly over us the broadest mantle of your charity; gathering all that we may have done that is useful, and turning it to some valuable account, but lay beside us in the tomb our every fault."

IRRIGATION

Irrigation was practised to some extent in Spencer between the years 1815 and 1850. The practice by that time seems to have been largely abandoned, but why is not known. So far as appears, the water in each case was applied wholly to grass lands and it is said with good results. On the Pliny Allen farm, about half a mile above the mill dam on the Brown-ing pond brook was a dam built across the river by the Allen family and called the fordway. From the small pond thus made some fifteen to twenty acres of grass land on the east side of the bank was irrigated. This tract was known as the water-land and under the above treatment is said to have produced large crops of hay.

On what was long known as the Daniel Whittemore farm near Pine Grove cemetery, there was a large water-ditch, portions of it still to be seen, running from below the bridge at Proutyville, along the southerly banks of Seven-Mile river to the knoll north of the Whittemore house. This ditch was from three-eighths to half a mile long and was the most extensive plant of its kind in town. The late John Cutter remembered seeing the ditch full of water and in active service. On the Moose pond stream, near the upper end of Ruel's pond, was a dam and irrigating canal, some portions of which are now to be seen between the pond and Wire Village road. This canal led around the hill and passed along above the present greenhouse of Frank J. Prouty on Lincoln street, irrigating the grass lands below. A smaller ditch also led from a dam on the same stream below the pond, and ran around the hill, crossing Lincoln street, near house of John W. Bigelow. Doubtless there were other irrigating ditches in town, but if so their location has not been ascertained.

SPENCER GOLD HUNTERS, OR FORTY-NINERS

BY JOSEPH W. TEMPLE.

In the early '40's of the nineteenth century, California seemed, to the people east of the Rocky mountains, to be a country contiguous to China and about as difficult of access. Commercially, it was only reached by a long, circuitous and dangerous voyage around Cape Horn. But notwithstanding this difficult process for reaching this far-off land, before '43 enough American emigrants had settled there to make statehood possible. In fact it was admitted, as a state, into the Union, two years after the previous date, or on September 9, 1850, although it had been regarded as an uncertain dependency on account of its comparative isolation, but the discovery of gold, on the property of Col. John Augustus Sutter, in February, 1848, and later widely distributed discoveries, settled, at once and forever, its important position among the states of the Union.

The year '49 marked an exciting epoch in the history of California. Exaggerated reports of marvelous finds of gold were on the wings of the wind and soon people began to flock there from Mexico, South America, the Atlantic states, Europe and even China. Enough early information, confirming these reports, had been gathered throughout the states, to create an excitement that very soon culminated in a craze and staid, sober men made hasty preparations to leave their places of business; artisans their shops and laboring men, in the field, the spade and plough, to join the mad rush for gold, gold, gold.

Thousands gathered together their small savings, disposed of household belongings, gave up lucrative business, left family and friends, in the hope of being in the "diggings," first to amass a fortune and first to return to deserted homes, if not with the wealth of Croesus, yet with enough to cheer and make happy, family and dependents.

Vessels of all description were pressed into the service, for the passage around the "Horn," loaded with men, food and such paraphernalia as was supposed to be necessary for mining operations. This long, tedious and doubtful route was soon abandoned, however, and a bold push was made for what appeared to be a more feasible one, overland, through a wild and unknown country and over an alkali desert, reaching from the Mississippi river to the foot-hills of the Rocky mountains and known, in the early geography of the country, as the "Great American Desert."

Expeditions for this route, were rapidly planned and early set in motion and this desert, as if by magic, soon became alive with men, horses, oxen, mules, wagons and nondescript vehicles, all heavily laden with provisions and miners' outfits. At first, this great, excited, living mass, pushed on with high hopes and expectations, but as the days wore on, it very soon became evident, that a struggle for life had been deliberately planned, with fearful odds against them, yet one expedition followed closely upon the tracks of another, and with little, or no thought of danger, or hardship, each boldly pushed on.

It proved a most daring and reckless attempt, for the sacrifice of life before the Rockies were reached was appalling. Their pathways became distinctly marked by dead men and animals, broken and abandoned wagons, the whole route a scene as distinctly marked as the tornado's path through a dense forest. The mad rush only proves, if proof is needed, that wherever the new Eldorado may be, there will be tens of thousands who will spurn the comforts of civilization, and face all dangers, to find it.

Spencer was not exempt from the get-rich-quick effect of this gold craze and some of its citizens proposed to form a syndicate, and furnish the necessary funds for supplies and transportation, to the field of operations, the net proceeds to be divided between miners and syndicate share and share alike. Eight young and vigorous men responded, eagerly, to their call and at once set about the work of preparation, for this voyage into the unknown.

It was learned that a company, from the western part of this state, was on the eve of departure for the gold-fields and the Spencer contingent, viz: Dr. F. K. Roberson, Albert Stone, Wallace Whittemore, Alanson Green, A. H. Dodge, William B. Adams, W. H. Dunbar and George Craven, arranged to join them without delay. They left Spencer, December 29, 1848, for New York, where they joined the greater party January 29, 1849, which sailed from that port, on the schooner John Cast-

ner and were towed out to sea at eleven o'clock a. m., for the first grand move in the direction of the gold-fields.

On this small vessel were eighty-four adventurers, viz: forty-seven from Hampden county, eight from Spencer, and the balance from Connecticut, New York and surrounding country. They had planned a route which to them seemed altogether possible, more expeditious and with fewer elements of danger, than by a voyage around the "Horn." It was, to follow the coast from New York to the Gulf of Mexico, thence across it to the mouth of the Rio Grande river. From this point they were to proceed up this river as far as Camargo, a distance of about 150 miles, thence across Mexico to Mazatlan on the Pacific coast, by horse and pack mules. Here they expected to meet a vessel that had been dispatched around the Cape, in which they were to take passage to their destination. A very simple program, on paper, but a more difficult one to execute, as the sequel will show.

They were jubilant as they left the "Castner" at Brazos, for the Rio Grande, with the prospects of early entering upon the journeying overland. Fifty miles up this river they made their first landing at Brownville, and to their great dismay they learned that cholera had made its appearance there, with two cases of death the previous night and ten more at the close of the next day. The situation took on a very serious aspect, at once, and they concluded to hasten on to their next scheduled stopping place, viz: Camargo, but before this point was reached, one of the Connecticut party was stricken with cholera and died two days later.

What followed, in the next few days, is taken from a diary, kept by Wallace Whittemore, as their trials progressed, viz: "On the 28th of February, we landed five miles from the city of Camargo, and pitched our tents beside the Rio and made preparations for a few days' stay here. The doctor was taken sick, here, also A. Stone and Levi Parsons. . . . On the first of March the captain went to Camargo to procure teams for transporting our baggage to the city. They arrived in the afternoon and the captain had all the tents packed, except the doctor's, and also the provisions, but said nothing about getting the sick from there. The doctor and Parsons (of New York) were sick with cholera at this time and only William Adams was with them, to attend to their wants, the rest having gone away with the teams. Stone and myself were just able to walk and as I was somewhat better than he, helped him to some trees where we could screen ourselves from the hot sun, when the company went off and left us. They had been gone about an hour when three of the company, who had been out hunting,

came back and seeing how matters stood, went to a rancho, not far from the Rio and engaged one of the shanties, for us, over night. They then moved the sick and made preparations for the night.

"We had been to the rancho but an hour, when I was taken sick and in two hours, was insensible and did not recollect anything that passed, until the 8th or 9th. I took some food, for the first time since I was taken. On the 10th I was able to sit up a short time and found that one man of the company, Kercher, had died, and the company had disbanded and gone and left us, a week before. We were moved from the rancho and taken to the city and were in tents two or three days and moved to Dr. Smith's home, where I found myself, when my senses returned. There were three of us sick at the doctor's and two left to take care of us. On the 11th I sat up nearly half-day.

"The doctor (that is F. K. Roberson) began to grow worse and died in the afternoon about six o'clock. We buried him the 12th and then took the back track."

When at Camargo and while most of the Spencer contingent were sick, or caring for them, the property of the company was divided, leaving what was supposed to belong to them, and the party separated, each to proceed on the journey, on his "own hook," or turn back, as he pleased. Many choose the latter, after the demoralizing experience of the last few weeks, and six of the Spencer adventurers turned their faces homewards.

Whittemore arrived in Spencer three months after leaving home and most of the living found their way back except Dodge and Dunbar, who finally reached San Francisco. But little, if anything, was ever heard of them.

After disbanding, many of the party made their way to the Isthmus, with the hope of obtaining passage, from there, by water, but they found it in a very congested state, with fully 5,000 people waiting for transportation to San Francisco and the gold-fields.

To the whole party and especially to those from Spencer, it was a sad expedition and with an inglorious ending.

The Pot of Gold.

Some sixty or seventy years ago, the exact time is not essential, a married man by the name of Bigelow lived in the northern part of the town. By a stroke of good fortune his wife inherited the farm now owned by the heirs of Tyler J. Putnam. She was one of those women who in a certain bodily condition, called a trance, are said to see things not discernable

by mortal eye. But if the wife in this case was mediumistic, a daughter was said to be much more gifted, and it was through her mediumship, that a pot of money was seen to be buried near the Bigelow homestead. It was also seen that this money had been buried by Indians, who in the palmy days owned the country and perhaps had a mint of their own. Of course the wise thing seemed to be to dig and secure the treasure, for the exact spot where the money was buried was located and its possession meant an easier road to wealth than by farming. Mr. Bigelow was a man of faith, of strong faith in this story of the pot of gold and proceeded with one or two others of like faith to demonstrate its truth by hard work. They dug and dug, picked and shoveled, and sweat, until a large area had been worked over some four feet deep, but to no good purpose. These old Indians were wily, or at least their spirits were and every night while the poor mortals, so hungry for their gold slept and dreamed dreams of wealth, these disembodied red men were busily at work changing the location of the pot, and so it was never found, for the Indians managed to get in their work in advance every time. After a while it dawned on Bigelow's mind that he was no match for the unseen powers with whom he imagined he had been contending and gave up the hunt to attend to the more reliable business of farming.

LOT BERRY'S GOLD MINE

Some twenty-five years ago, Lot Berry, an apparently well-to-do farmer, living near Sugdenville, found on his farm what he believed to be indications of gold and being a studious man purchased and read books on the subject until in his mind there was certainty to the proposition. He probably never had read the United States geological reports on gold-bearing



HOISTING APPARATUS AT BERRY'S GOLD MINE.

rock and soil, or he would have learned that no gold was to be found in all New England except along the Appalachian range of mountains, which extend from Alabama to Nova Scotia, crossing Vermont and New Hampshire, but not Massachusetts. However, true to his convictions he set himself to tunneling the hill immediately east of his house and worked at the job in be-

tween times, until perhaps a hundred or more feet had been excavated, but all this was done without any show of the precious metal. The picture shows the portal in rather a dilapidated condition, having been taken a few years after active work on the tunnel ceased. Mr. Berry's next plan was to sink a shaft in the bed rock underlying his farm and for this purpose chose a place near the road and east of the barn. Here he erected hoisting apparatus as shown in cut, to be run by horse power, that would do credit to a Western mining camp. This was



PORTAL TO LOT BERRY'S GOLD MINE.

originally enclosed by a high board fence and the view was taken soon after the fence had been taken down and the enterprise abandoned. Mr. Berry sank quite a shaft and perhaps would have been making his way China-ward now if the water question had not come in to make him trouble. It was said that at the last water enough would leach in through the night to keep the hoisting apparatus busy all a forenoon. This left only a short time to do advance work in. No gold had been discovered, and Mr. Berry quit his undertaking.

ASHER RICE

James Draper says, "Asher Rice in 1736 came on to the west part of lot 7." Mr. Thomas Rice, father of Asher, was the first settler in Westborough, then a part of Marlborough, and was for several years representative for the town of Marlborough in the General Court. His house was made a garrison in 1711 and stood on the plain in the village of Westborough and on the spot now occupied by the house of Mr. Fayerweather. On the 8th day of August, 1704, as several persons were at work in the field a party of eight or ten Indians rushed from the woods and killed Naher, son of Mr. Edmund Rice, and captured two more of his sons, Silas and Timothy, and also Asher and Adonizah, sons of Thomas Rice, and carried them to Canada. Silas, Timothy and Adonizah never returned, but Asher was redeemed by his father and returned in about four years. When taken by the Indians he was about ten years old.

His house was on the western side of the Waite road, about half a mile northerly of the Wire village, where vestiges of the cellar may still be seen. While among the Indians he imbibed many of their peculiarities, some of which he retained through life. He erected forts and garrisons to guard against the Indians long after they had all disappeared. His eccentricities in other things were no less singular. He spent much time in building a grist mill, so arranged as to have the under stone move around instead of the upper one. This movement he said was natural, "as a man's under jaw moved in reducing his food."

The old Waite road runs in the same general direction as the Turkey Hill pond brook from Thompson's mills to Sugdenville. To find it, start from the north end of the upper wire mill, cross the bridge but a short distance away and there commences the famous Waite road, once in common use, and shows more clearly perhaps, the kind of highways the early settlers traveled over than any other old road in town. In fact the road is in its primitive state and as the forefathers left it. The grist mill and dam, small affairs, were built on Turkey Hill pond stream, easterly from the house of Mr. Rice. September 6, 1885, Mr. Lewis Snow, who was born in that section of the

town and the larger part of his life lived there, celebrated a part of his seventieth birthday, with the writer hunting in the stream for the Asher Rice mill stones. The under one, the one of greater interest, was found, having on its under side a square mortice for the timber on which it was secured while the whole revolved. This stone was placed in the Spencer Museum, where it is now an exhibit.

BIOGRAPHY OF WILLIAM SUMNER

WITH SHORT SKETCH OF FAMILY

BY JOSEPH W. TEMPLE.

William Sumner, son of William and Lucina (Fletcher) Sumner was born in Spencer, April 9, 1817, and died April 16, 1893, aged seventy-six years and seven days.

"His ancestry were large land-holders in Roxbury, this state, and they were also owners of unsettled land in the towns of Brookfield, Sutton and Leicester. One of the children of Edward Sumner, the original owner, viz: Increase, was governor of Massachusetts in the years 1797 and '98, and was elected for '99, but died before taking his seat."

Deacon Sumner, grand nephew of Increase and father of the subject of this sketch, was an honored citizen of Spencer and deacon of the First Congregational church, for many years, by occupation a farmer in a small way and owner of one of the most important saw mills and privilege, in the town. In and around this mill, his son passed the earlier years of his life, or until the decease of his father in 1839.

He early developed a remarkable talent for music, which seemed, in his case, an inborn gift, and to be the owner of an instrument with strings, soon became a passion. At the age of seven years, he began to exercise his child's ingenuity, with reference to the accomplishment of this object, and before the close of his eighth year, he was deservedly proud of the success of the undertaking.

The old homestead was an unpretentious, one-story dwelling, situated at the foot of "Sumner Hill," so called, and in it was a board partition, so firmly set between floor and ceiling, as to form almost a perfect sounding board. Young William discovering this fact, conceived the idea of producing an instrument, of two octaves, by an arrangement of perpendicular wires, made fast to the partition and manipulated by the fingers, "a la harp." This device was a pleasing success and for many

years, neighbors, near and far, enjoyed the music of this unique instrument, played by him.

He was next attracted to the violin, but to possess one of his own, was a luxury his people could not indulge him in and believing in his ability to produce this instrument also, he set about the task. In due time, a violin was a real thing, and he was its happy possessor. From this time on, it became a source of great pleasure to him and until the latter part of his life, the violin was his constant companion. Later on he owned one, more artistic in design and make, which by accident was



WILLIAM SUMNER.

broken in many pieces. These he collected, and with glue and an untiring patience, restored it in form and tone, and as dear to him as though it bore the name of Cremona. It remained in his possession until his decease.

This same instrument caused the deacon many moments of painful anxiety, as the younger element, then, as now, were wont to indulge in the "giddy dance," in a quiet way and William and his violin were indispensable, on those occasions. At one of these social gatherings, he had been detained until the small hours of morning and during the restless watching for his

return, the parents felt it their pious duty to read him a lesson of solemn warning, on the baneful influence of such fleeting pleasures.

William had grave suspicions of the reception awaiting him, and rising early he quietly entered the family room, seized his Bible and was at once in his accustomed seat, seemingly absorbed in the customary morning lesson. He presented the picture of innocent meekness, yet there was nothing vicious in his simulation, while it produced the desired effect, viz: the forgiveness of both, the good deacon and mother.

Handicapped, as he was, by force of circumstances, yet his genius had served him well in the past; why not now attempt to produce a pipe organ, that king of instruments, which was to him a source of unbounded delight? So with the rudest of tools and material at hand, he passed his leisure hours in the accomplishment of this object. He found this, however, a task too difficult, yet while the result was not altogether a failure, it was not the desired success.

In 1838, pianos were quite unusual in country towns, and but two were owned in Spencer, one in the south part and one, by Mr. Josiah Green, in the center. The latter required tuning and it occurred to him that Mr. Sumner was equal to the task. At an interview for the purpose, Mr. Sumner was doubtful whether the request be a joke, or whether made in good faith, and was naturally suspicious, as the transition from tending a saw mill to tuning a piano, seemed quite ridiculous, to say the least, even to him, but with that force which masters conditions he consented to look the situation over. In doing so, he saw that to turn the pins that carry the wires, was the difficult problem, but saw no reason why this could not be done with the aid of the old-fashioned iron bed wrench, and armed with this formidable tool, a hammer and a file, he made this his first lesson in the art of piano tuning. At the close of the day, his sensitive ear assured him that this experiment was a success, for which he was justly proud.

He, afterwards, became a skillful tuner and this was a part of his profession, for many years.

First Experience Along This Line of Work.

During these early years, and while attending to his duties at the saw mill, he occupied his leisure hours studying the science of music as best he could, with the meagre information and opportunities at his command, with the view of making music and its accessories his profession. In order to gratify the desire to listen to good music, he, many times walked to

Worcester and back and once he covered the entire distance to Boston and return, on foot.

His first experience, in directing, was as choir master in the First Congregational church in Spencer, leading the service with his violin, and he occupied this position for many years. He entered upon his work with an untiring devotion to it, and the proficiency of his choir and chorus work were an evidence of this fact. The high standard of music which Spencer enjoyed was due largely to his efforts and it is fair to suppose that the influence which created that standard among the fathers and mothers of his, and the following generation, is felt at the present time, among their children. His methods were those derived from the teachings of the old fashioned singing school and he was a successful pioneer in this mode of instruction. He always manifested a deep interest in the welfare of his native town and watched, with pride, its growth in population and expanding business and musical enterprises. Of the latter, he most enjoyed the Mendelssohn Society, a musical organization, of which he was promoter and director for many years and it was his boast that there were few, if any organizations of the kind in the country towns, that could so satisfactorily perform the leading choruses from the great oratorios, as could this one. With few exceptions the chorus and orchestra were resident musicians.

While his residence was Worcester, during the greater part of his active life, he never, for a moment forgot that Spencer was his Alma Mater. He was the youngest of a family of seven children, the six older being daughters, and "Abby," as she was familiarly called, was his vocal and musical companion. Among the many visitors, at their home, for a season of song and other musical recreation, was Miss Marion Josephine Howard of New Braintree and Mr. David Hitchcock of Brimfield. These four constituted a vocal quartette of rare quality and their singing was the delight of social gatherings and entertainments. A happy episode was the result of these musicals, for on the 24th of August, 1846, Miss Howard became the wife of Mr. Sumner.

Music was his individuality. In hymnal he especially excelled and his idea of the adaptation of music to poetry, or vice versa, was very marked. It was his custom to first analyze the hymn, that he might fully understand its meaning, then introduce the instrument in harmony with the sentiment expressed in the same, as he understood it. His moving force was—first—a devout interpretation, coupled with an artistic, yet sincere rendering, second—intensely in earnest, but never

seeking popular applause. His musical sense was so keenly developed that embellishment for effect, solely, was exceedingly distasteful. The tremolo, so much used by vocalists of the present day, produced in him a painful sensation and he discouraged its use, in all his teachings.

He was gifted in improvisation and when seated at his favorite instrument, the organ, with its endless variety of combination and effect, he revelled in its delightful harmonies, oblivious of audience or listener. His playing was with a spirituality and religiousness that was a part of his being.

He delighted in the grand oratorios of the old masters and whenever called to teach, or direct, selections from these works were made the class or chorus study. Musically, he worshipped at the shrine of these great composers and was particularly attracted to Mendelssohn, because of his noble character and aspiring devotion to his art. To Mr. Sumner, these qualities entered largely into the life and work of a true musician, as he felt to reach the soul of the auditor music must come from the soul.

Serious thinkers about the art may disagree in the details, yet they unite in the opinion that it can only be expressed in the broader emotions. Mr. Sumner possessed a strong poetic, as well as religious nature and at times and on short notice, supplied both words and music for special church occasions. His compositions showed a delicate blending of light and shade and for pleasing harmony and effect, he had no peer among the musicians of his time.

He left no published volumes of his works, but many of his church tunes are found in the singing books of his day, such as the "Voice of Praise," "Sanctus," "Temple Carmina," etc. The late Edward Hamilton of Worcester, a composer of much merit, was author of the two former works and was a close friend and contemporary of Mr. Sumner.

Mr. Sumner made Worcester his residence in 1845, engaging in the sale of pianos and tuning, at the rooms, No. 263 Main Street. Later was co-partner with the late Mr. B. D. Allen, a Worcester musician, they continuing in the same line of business. He was one of the originators of the Beethoven society, in that city, which was later merged with the organization known as the Choral Union and in time this became the Worcester Musical Association—now Festival. This body was incorporated in 1879 and he was elected its vice president and continued in this office until his decease.

After his marriage he took up his residence at No. 15 Chatham Place. Mrs. Sumner survived him, at their long

cherished home, about seven years, but soon after his decease, she began to feel the effects of an extremely active, and strenuous life and finally passed away May 16, 1906. She had been a remarkable woman in her profession as teacher of vocal music and elocution. Full of enthusiasm in her work and possessing a happy faculty for imparting her theory of vocal culture, to teacher, or pupil, she was an acknowledged success. She proved herself a rare helpmeet to her music loving husband and her connection with the musical sphere in which they moved, was little, if any, less prominent than his.

She taught music in the public schools of Worcester for many years and for 30 years was one of the vocal teachers in the Worcester County Music School, an institution founded by her sons. She had charge of the music in the Worcester Normal School for 20 years, when she resigned her duties as teacher and instructor because of failing health. Her labors covered a period of 45 consecutive years of conscientious devotion to the art of music, in all its branches. She was born in Enfield, Mass., July 8, 1823.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Sumner, three in number, naturally inherited the ruling passion of the parents, viz:—music. George William was born Oct. 14, 1848, and early in life it became evident that this talent was to enter largely into his future and under careful home training, he made progress. At the age of fourteen he began playing the pipe organ and at sixteen became the organist of the Congregational church in Spencer. Under such instructors as B. J. Lang of Boston, and abroad with the celebrated French teacher Guilmant, he made rapid advancement, in his chosen profession, which naturally was a source of pride to parents and a host of admiring friends.

Boston was his home for 25 years and he held the position of organist and director of the choir of the Arlington Street church nearly two decades. Was director of Harvard musical association and St. Bartolph Club, Boston, and ten years director of the Orpheas Club, Springfield, Mass. His success as teacher and director was highly flattering to self and parents, portending a brilliant future, but they were suddenly terminated by death, which occurred at his summer home, on Orr's Island, off the coast of Maine, August 14, 1892.

August 26, 1879, he married Viola Ryan, daughter of Thomas Ryan, leader of the Mendelssohn club of Boston. She was a musical critic of ability, was thoroughly in touch with the work of her husband and labored, harmoniously with him, to make the efforts of his life a success. He left a daughter,

who inherits the musical temperament of parents and grand parents.

Edward Ludwig, second son, was born Sept. 22, 1850, and was schooled along the same lines of his brother, receiving most of his musical education in Boston, with B. J. Lang as teacher. He occupies a high position in Worcester, as organist and teacher and is closely identified with the musical interests of the city. Has been on the roll of directors of the musical association, or Festival, for many years. Is also general manager of the Worcester County Music school, founded by G. W. and E. L. Sumner in 1872, and its success, past and present, is largely due to his untiring efforts. It is, today, one of the largest and best equipped schools of its kind in Worcester County.

He married Kate Amelia, daughter of Cornelius and Amelia Brainard, of Haddam, Conn. Mrs Brainard was a teacher of the science of music, in Mobile, Alabama. Mrs. Sumner succeeds the elder Mrs. Sumner as teacher in the Worcester County Music School.

Ella Josephine, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sumner, was born March 9, 1853. Her training, as vocalist, followed, naturally, the same line of instruction of the brothers, making a specialty of the voice, however, which developed as a soprano, rapidly under the skillful home teaching of her mother. Later she was pupil under Mrs. C. R. Hayden, Madam Rudersdorff and Dr. Guilmette of Boston, Madam Courtney and Signor Belare of New York.

She has held leading positions in choir work, in Springfield and Brookline, Mass., Norwich, Conn., Buffalo and other places in New York. In Springfield she was soprano in the quartette choir at St. Paul's, and in Buffalo had charge of and directed the choir of the church of Christ.

To gain and hold these various positions, before a critical public, is evidence conclusive, that her musical inheritance and prominence as vocalist was in line and keeping with those of the family that preceded her. Nov. 10, 1881, she married Mr. Frederick J. Shepard, assistant editor of the Buffalo Courier, Buffalo, N. Y.

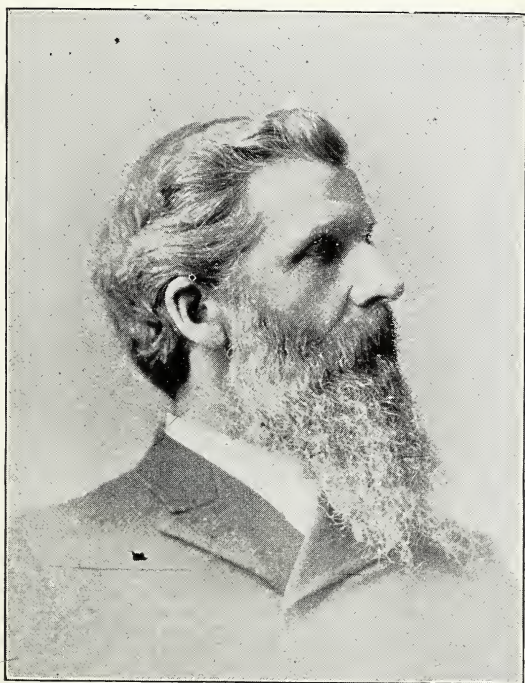
REMINISCENCES OF SPENCER

BY REV. M. EMORY WRIGHT.

In the month of April, 1864, I was appointed to the pastorate of the Methodist Episcopal society in Spencer. My immediate predecessor was Rev. Nathaniel H. Martin, who in turn had followed Rev. William J. Hambleton. Both were devoted and faithful ministers, though now retired from the active work. I came directly from Dudley, where I had been favored with a powerful revival, which gave to our ministry two prominent and successful men. My introduction to Spencer was an experience not often if ever paralleled. An epidemic of army measles had swept over Dudley, having been brought from the camp by a returned soldier. We had arrived on Saturday and the same night my wife and both my little children were violently attacked with that malady. The next day brought a driving snow storm, which left me only a meagre sprinkling of hearers. Our personal belongings lay in heaps in the parsonage and except for the unremitting kindness of our new parishioners, who came to our rescue as if we had been of their own kindred, the memory would have been dreary enough for a lifetime. Followed, however, as it was, by one of the most delightful periods of my life, that brief episode, however trying at the time, was only a transient ripple upon the surface. For three years I remained, the full period then allowed under the existing time-limit.

Through no fault of either pastors or parishioners, the church was at that time in a seriously depressed condition. By death and removal several of the active and liberal supporters had dropped from its list. A debt, trifling enough for these days, but grievous indeed then, had for years burdened it, crippling its resources and sapping its courage. To give up in despair was the grim alternative already accepted by many devoted friends. It was freely discussed in the official meetings, as an inevitable necessity, and it is a matter of authentic history that one of the most enterprising citizens

had actually made proposals to utilize the entire property for business purposes. Besides, the "Church on the Hill" was of necessity "a power to be reckoned with." For many decades the only religious society in the village, it had largely aggregated within its communion or under its influence, the growing wealth, the social prestige and the popular sentiment of the town. Any possible rivalry with an institution so compacted and so deeply rooted, was only a dream of the fancy. Then



REV. M. EMORY WRIGHT.

the former house of worship, just previously destroyed by fire, had been replaced by a noble structure, combining all the facilities and the advantages usually found at that period. And to crown it all, a pastor had been settled, whose commanding presence and oratorical ability well fitted him to hold for years to come the mastery of the situation. It is little wonder that the crowd flocked to so inviting a center, whilst only a few dozens favored the humbler sanctuary with their presence.

Yet amid this appalling discouragement, a few gleams of light began to break in. For some cause a spirit of hopefulness took the place of the prevalent distrust and fear. Following the most cordial of welcomes at the beginning of my service, there was a most encouraging rally of forces to the rescue. There was no more talk of selling the property nor of giving up the effort. The regular services grew in numbers and in interest. Meetings by the score and counting up into the hundreds, were held in the outlying neighborhoods. It was no uncommon thing to go directly from the church door, at the close of the afternoon service, then everywhere customary, to the little brick school house in the northwest part of the town, there to hold a five o'clock meeting, thence to Hillsville for another at seven, the regular work at home being meanwhile cared for by some one of the brethren. On week evenings private houses, far and near, were at all seasons freely tendered for social religious gatherings, and cheerfully did their walls ring with the voice of song and of prayer. From these special efforts frequent conversions resulted, and though not in every instance remaining to enrich our own membership, the happy subjects never failed to receive a cordial welcome elsewhere. And so, by slow but encouraging advances, the good work prospered and a dangerous emergency was thus happily averted.

Naturally enough, with this healthful quickening in the spiritual life, there presently came a heightened ambition for temporal improvements. Certain repairs and minor changes began to add their saving touches to the property. But the most noticeable achievement was the purchase of a pipe organ. It was small, of limited range, with no changes of registration, with no swell arrangement, with the show-pipes of pine wood, merely shaped and gilded to resemble the genuine, and with a wheezy bellows. Besides it was a second-hand affair and added its full price to the existing debt. Some were irreverent enough to nickname it a little "box trap." Yet, while not destined to outrival the famous Music Hall wonder, it was not to be despised. Its smooth and flute-like tones were in refreshing contrast with the strains of a cheap cabinet organ. It marked a notable advance in good taste, convenience and effectiveness. From that time the character and quality of the church music were distinctly heightened.

It was then, however, that a deeper longing began to possess the hearts of a loyal few. A brooding nightmare had for years been the debt, which in one way and another had been piling up. A matter of only ten or twelve hundred dol-

lars, it then weighed like a millstone upon the neck of the church. A proposal was made to clear it off. Of course the usual array of protests and of discouragements was presented. It was always so and doubtless will always be. One of the most forehanded and liberal members declared that, sooner than give a cent, he would see the church in ashes. Yet when the effort had gained headway enough to make it a sure thing, he manfully wheeled into line and gave a sum equal to the highest upon the list. Two-thirds or more were assumed by the church attendants alone and when the residue was presented to the business men of the community, they, with the cheerfulness and the generosity for which they have always been noted, immediately cancelled every dollar. To their timely aid the church has more than once been indebted in the pinch of necessity. A public service of rejoicing was held in honor of this "great deliverance."

This happy event made all the more obvious another pressing need. The house of worship, as originally built, had been for those times considered a pattern of neatness, good taste and convenience. And the subsequent alterations, however extensive, have chiefly consisted of additions to the room, while the general plan of the structure has not been changed. But in fashioning the entrance a dreary blunder had been made. According to a style then not uncommon, a recess had been left, throwing open a large extent of floor space to the weather, rendering it utterly useless for any good purpose. To relieve the naked and uncouth appearance a wide fluted column had been erected at either end, leaving the distance between little more than wide enough for a passageway. The vestibule was cramped by just that extent of wasted room, thus permitting only a narrow and unsuitable approach to any other part of the building. So glaring a piece of botchwork had also compelled another, equally unfortunate. For the sole chance then left for reaching the audience room was by a flight of winding steps, crowded into an area at either corner of the church, barely sufficient for a common wardrobe, and leaving not an inch of standing room at the top. A correction of this great evil was seriously contemplated. Plans were presented and approved. Full discussion was given to the subject. But the close of that pastorate had nearly come. The people had lifted hard in the payment of the debt. So the matter was deferred for the time. Yet while in the subsequent changes the ideas then favored were not carried out in detail, the general scheme for the purpose was then and there originated.

The church at that period was highly favored in the character of its chief constituency. The names of Lewis W. Snow, Pliny Allen, William Henshaw, Hiram P. Dunton and Amos Kittredge now come up in review, as if they were only memories of yesterday. For loyalty, constancy and generous giving according to their means, it was of little use to look for their superiors. As representing a younger generation, William Brainerd Prouty was not a whit behind them. For fiery zeal, which neither storm nor flood could quench, plain Samuel Dickerman had no rival. Loring Emerson, a good and faithful man, had charge of the Sunday School, after whom came William Wadsworth, who for several years did excellent service. Not belonging to the church, but rendering friendly aid in many ways, were Russell Weld, Daniel Ball, Samuel Boyden, William Stanley and others. They were always helpful and responsive, whenever occasion required. As ever, since the apostles' time, there were also elect women not a few. With scarcely an exception the wives of those already named were conspicuous, as either members or friends, for their devotion to the welfare of the church. In addition to these, Elvira Mason, Clarissa Sibley, Christina Eldredge, Olive Prouty, Marv Eliza Prouty, Mrs. Lauriston Prouty, Mrs. Isaac N. Stearns and Mrs. Hill, of Hillsville, will be gratefully remembered for their good works, so long as memory itself shall continue.

Not alone in the stated routine of church service were these faithful souls lavishing both time and effort and consecrating their substance. A notable auxiliary, for both spiritual good and temporal, consisted of two social organizations, which, with the regularity of clock work, were for years maintained by the women of the congregation. The one was located at the center, the other at Hillsville. They were commonly known as "Circles" and alternately met from house to house in their respective neighborhoods. There was always a keen rivalry between them, but it was the friendly rivalry of good works in a good cause, without a shadow of jealousy or of friction. Habitually the members attended each other's meetings, which were always in the afternoon and it was the regular custom to spread a bountiful repast before the company. In strictly legitimate ways considerable sums were realized, which were devoted either to parsonage repairs and furniture or to the current expenses. It was a remarkable circumstance in the history of a church, so young in years and so limited in numbers, that two organizations, identical in spirit and in purpose, should so long exist in perfect harmony, side by side, and carry on with such eminent success, a work so noble.

It was in the midst of this period that the most tragical event in all our American history occurred. Never to be forgotten was that dreadful Saturday morning which brought the news of President Lincoln's assassination. Throughout the community, as everywhere within telegraphic range, the excitement and the commotion were past all account. Lamentably familiar have we since become with such unspeakable horrors. But then the whole nation seemed to be dazed with consternation and dismay. Of course the ordinary plans for the next day's worship were set aside. Every loyal sanctuary became at once a house of mourning and on that hasty notice were solemn services extemporized in honor of the illustrious martyr. Our church was heavily draped by Mr. Dunton, with the richest fabrics in somber black which he was wont to use in his tailoring business. The effect was overpowering and little could be done but to sob and to stammer out a few broken sentences, then to let the mute eloquence of the occasion speak the lesson, which no words could ever teach.

The Spencer of that day was very little to be compared with the large and populous community of the present. The census roll then counted about 2800. The sumptuous dwellings of today were probably not then thought of, likewise the stately brick piles which now adorn the village. The old Town Hall would soon "hide its diminished head," if taken up and re-planted upon its old site. The High School was modestly housed in wooden walls, with the little nest-egg of a public library cuddled into a room up stairs. The Baptist church and the Universalist had no existence but in the possible dreams of a few hopeful friends. There had once been a Universalist society, whose place of worship was a plain wooden structure on the south side of Main Street, nearly opposite the old Watson tavern. But the organization had ceased and for years the building had been occupied as a boot shop. Meanwhile the persons in sympathy with that faith quite generally identified themselves with the Congregationalist church. There had also been a Baptist organization in the northern part of the town, which occupied a very small building of wood, situated upon the road leading towards Worcester. That also had been given up and the humble headquarters had long stood empty, a lonely reminder of former days and doings. The old and reliable boot firms were steadily prospering, but inclosed in quarters that would now seem like boy-suits for giants. Where stands the colossal plant of Isaac Prouty & Co. was an open lot, though near the end of our stay the front section, the wonder of its day, was erected. From Josiah Green's to the Watson Brothers not an engine gave a

puff of steam, nor a pulley whirred nor a gear clacked and rattled. Every stroke of work was done by hand or by machines operated with hand or foot power. Upon the little stream below, entirely by water power, William Upham ran a manufactory of cloth, and a step lower down William Stanley followed a like industry. At the upper Wire Village, Myrick and Sugden, and at the lower, the Prouty Brothers were making notable additions to the wealth of industry. And to the lasting honor of Spencer be it said, that a long search will fail to discover its superior for the solid integrity of its business men.

As a rule my relations with the community were of the most agreeable character. More than one mark of confidence wholly unsought and unexpected by me, was shown by the people. By the custom of that time a committee of three had charge of the public schools, so far as the qualifications of the teachers were concerned and the general condition and progress of the pupils. That committee consisted of Rev. James Cruikshanks, Dr. E. C. Dyer and George L. Hobbs. Upon the death of Dr. Dyer, I was chosen in the customary way to fill the vacancy, till the end of the year, when at the regular town meeting I was elected by the citizens and served during the remainder of my stay. For many a mile did Mr. Cruikshanks and myself, both well versed in the use of nature's apparatus for locomotion, travel side by side in our official tours of school inspection. I do not now remember a district in that large township that we did not personally visit, going and returning on foot. A notable event in the light of subsequent history was the employment, as the High School principal, of Wilbur O. Atwater, since known throughout the world of science. On the retirement of Mr. Cruikshanks from the school board, he was succeeded by Dr. E. M. Wheeler, who, being amply provided with sturdy horseflesh, soon put a period to the era of pedestrianism.

For some years the rapid growth of the school in the lower part of the village had been overcrowding its meager accommodations. Some new arrangement was imperatively demanded. With Hon. Luther Hill and some others I was placed on a building committee, having full power to act in the matter. Timid conservatism strenuously urged the patching up of the old wooden building, which had so entirely outlived its convenience, with an under story added and a flight of outside steps, open to the weather: \$2,000 was the outside figure of expense which in these cautious calculations had been so much as dreamed of. And when the committee had audaciously broached a plan for a structure of brick, three stories high,

containing four rooms finished and two others to be utilized when needed, a storm of criticism burst forth, of which this new generation has never dreamed. Yet we "builded better than we knew," even though our rash venture had overtopped the limit of \$20,000, for scarcely had the call sounded, to gather into the new quarters the swarming troops of children, before the unfinished rooms were needed to accommodate the throng. Not an inch of space had been wasted and that seemingly extravagant outlay was really one of the wisest measures of economy for a community-so-thriving and so full of enterprise. Very plain to more modern eyes may seem that pioneer structure. But many a more ambitious architectural triumph will fail to equal it in solid and durable character. It is well fitted to stand for ages.

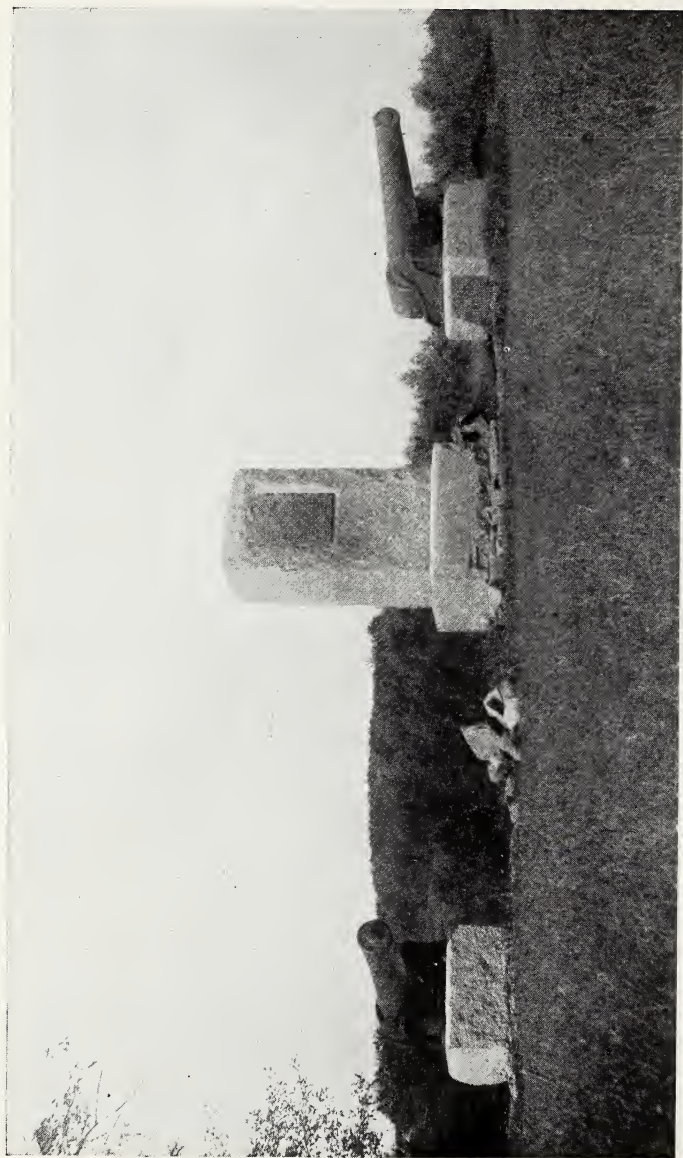
Very pronounced was the temperance sentiment in those days. Not to my knowledge was there in all that township, a place where intoxicants were sold. As a rule the people, old and young, were abstainers. Organizations found ready favor, not for stemming a tide of inebriation, which did not exist, but to keep alive and active the principles of the people and to promote social intercourse. In the interest of the Good Templars' Order, one Collins, an accredited agent, made his appearance and proposed to organize a lodge. He came unannounced, was something of a dude in his appearance, had many odd and absurd mannerisms, and at a public gathering afterwards held in the old Town Hall, he delivered himself of a harangue, which for pompous rhetoric and bombast one might long travel and not find equalled. Only his evident sincerity and his volcanic earnestness redeemed either himself or his effort from ridicule. Yet in spite of drawbacks so nearly fatal, a movement was begun which enlisted some of the choicest elements in the community. A society was formed, bearing, in honor of the season, the name of "May Day Lodge," and for years it held, as to numbers and character, a commanding position. Prominent among the active helpers in this were Deacon Proctor, Mrs. Cynthia Ann Bacon, Mrs. Ball, (the mother of Daniel), J. E. Bacon, W. O. Atwater, Mary Hersey, William Wadsworth, Mary Bullard, John W. Bigelow, Loring Emerson, Daniel Ball, Richard Lindley, Mary and Abbie Dunton, besides many others who came in at later times and made a good record.

In the way of social intercourse, affording, with substantial improvement in voice culture, the most pure and refined enjoyment, nothing exceeded a musical association which was formed during the same period. Its two-fold object was to encourage friendly intercourse on the part of its members

and to study choice choral compositions. There was no test of social connection applied, nor of religious affiliation, the only condition of admittance being a fair degree of musical taste and a hearty enthusiasm for the purpose in view. It was known as the Mendelssohn Society, and was substantially a re-animation of a former body which, under the same title and with a portion of the same individuals, had gained a creditable reputation. Nothing cheap nor ordinary in character was ever chosen for practice. The weekly gatherings for drill and for recital were occasions of rare interest and profit. Such proficiency was attained that several popular and successful concerts were given, one of them as far away as West Brookfield. William Sumner, a native of Spencer, but in all his later years a resident of Worcester, was the director. He belonged to the old and well known family of that name. He was a living embodiment of the musical spirit, a composer of high class oratorio, a man of unsullied character and of deep religious feeling. As a conductor he excelled in skill and tact and patience. Urbane in manner, kind and courteous to all, gentle and genial in spirit, he commanded the esteem and the confidence of every one. His work was no mechanical drudgery, wearily endured, with his eye upon the clock and with the thought of the coming pay day chiefly uppermost. Rather it was marked with a glow of enthusiasm which gave to every pulse a healthful throb of interest. Being a ready player upon the violin, he had a fashion of holding that instrument as he led, not in order to help the accompaniments, but to emphasize certain passages or otherwise to interpret them according to his taste. And when the moment had arrived for closing, his only announcement would be to commence singing, with his mild and mellow voice, without so much as a note from any instrument, the opening stanza of the hymn, "By Cool Siloam's Shady Rill," in which all the chorus instantly joined. To my best remembrance this feature was never once omitted. The instrumental parts in these congenial exercises were led by Mrs. J. W. Temple, formerly Miss Sybil Green. To my best information and belief she was then the most accomplished pianist in that community. With a cultivated taste, quick to discern the spirit of a composition, strong and self reliant in execution, she gave a support to the voices, upon which, from the first measure, they confidently rested and were never disappointed. Some of the scores were notably involved and difficult, yet she never faltered, and it was an inspiration to observe the ease and the readiness with which the tangled passages tripped off from her fingers' ends. With the bass viol, Benjamin Deland rendered valuable service, as did also George W. Merritt with the flute, both being

ready and competent players. Having from my youth had a great fondness for clarinet practice, I was courteously assigned to that part, which, mere amateur that I was, I would never have dreamed of offering to take. And while I was glad to do my best, I fancy that my performances would now seem crude enough, even were only myself to be the critic. A well known expert in this line was Ambrose M. Tower. For years he was recognized and quoted for his skill in execution. He had belonged to the former organization, but at the later period, owing to his impaired health, he was not permitted to attend. Among the singers were Mr. and Mrs. Lyman Powers, J. W. Temple, Joseph and Marietta Green, Hiram Brewer, Mary Hersey, Frank E. Dunton, John M. Green, Mrs. Joel Dunn, J. Edward Bacon, Mrs. Theodore Prouty, Charles Muzzy, Mrs. Corliss, Pamela Comins and Estelle Ward. If any name, especially worthy of mention, has been omitted from the foregoing list, the fault is chargeable to the lapse of nearly forty years and not to any deliberate intention. For uniform courtesy received from each and from all, for personal enjoyment, for the quickening of my mind and the brightening of my life, always excepting my church relations and work, nothing has ever surpassed my connection with that notable body of young people.

But the most grateful enjoyments of this world are quite sure of an ultimate end, as all find out to their cost. With me it was speedily realized, bound as I then was by an inexorable "time-limit." Three short years were ended. Like an auctioneer's mallet, after the last bid, the stroke of destiny fell, and like the Israelites of old, I had only to "take up my baggage and go." As by the turn of a wheel I was set down in that quaint old city of Newburyport, whose feet are twice daily bathed in the tidal waters of the lovely Merrimac. I have seen many changes since then. I have often set foot in Spencer and for a period I again lived there, as the pastor of the same church. I have made new friends there and formed other connections. I have watched with the keenest pleasure the astonishing growth and the material improvement of the town. Yet the endeared circle was broken. Never again did I meet all the associates whom I so cherished in those former relations. The potent charm was dispelled. My only compensation is that the scenes of that happy time so kindly and brightly linger in the memory. And as the years pass and gradually the end of all things earthly draws near, no change of season nor of place can aught diminish the ardor of my attachment to Spencer and to its generous and enterprising people.



BEMIS MEMORIAL PARK.

Since the issue of Vol. II two thirty-six hundred pound Parrott guns, in use during the Civil War, have been placed in position equi-distant east and west from the monument, to the memory of Edmund Bemis. These were obtained from the Brooklyn navy yard, through John D. Long, Secretary of War, and were loaned to the town of Spencer for purpose above named. John G. Avery was the prime mover in this project, and raised the money needed to defray all expenses.

BIOGRAPHY OF COL. ALONZO TEMPLE

BY JOSEPH W. TEMPLE.

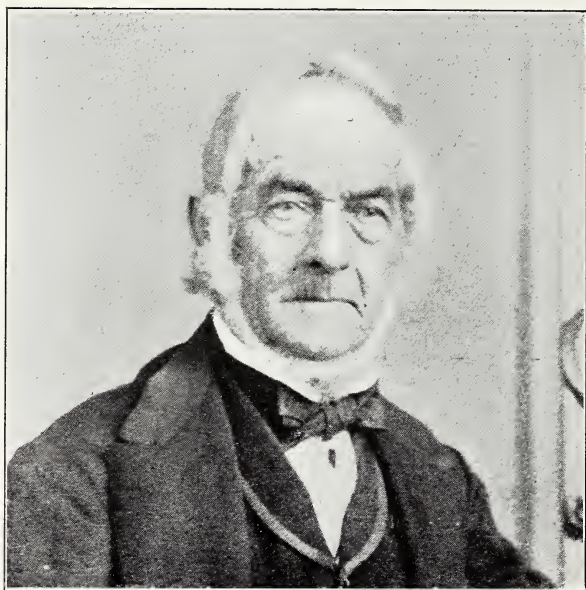
Alonzo Temple was born in Rutland, Mass., Nov. 19, 1797. He came to Spencer at the age of fifteen and began life as an ordinary laborer, as this was about the only occupation offering to young men, in those days. Specialties were few. Ministers, lawyers and doctors were about the limit, so that the "horny handed sons of toil," constituted the great preponderance of the male population.

Being of a prudent and saving disposition, his surplus earnings soon enabled him to purchase a small farm, in the "south side," so called, situated on the south county road and now known as the Washington Marble farm. In time, the additions to this, in acres, made him one of the large land owners in this section of the town.

While engaged in the duties of an agricultural life, and its accessories, he found time to learn the trade of carpenter, and during the first half of the 19th century he became an important contractor and builder, in and around Spencer. Adjoining the west line of his farm, was that of the late Caleb Sibley, the same now owned and occupied by Mr. Stephen D. Hadley, and more recently known as "Grasmere." The dwelling was a mansion, for those days, charmingly located and an ideal country residence. Mr. Sibley was a large land owner, but his business was principally buying, selling or bartering the product of neighboring farms, running a weekly line of teams to Boston, for the sale, or exchange of the same. The ell of this dwelling he used as a store, from which he supplied general merchandise to the immediate and surrounding country. Being a near neighbor to Mr. Temple, he soon became interested in him and made him general manager, for both his Boston and local trade. He remained with Mr. Sibley until his marriage with Mrs. Adeline (Rider) Sibley, June 17, 1827, then removing, with his wife, to his farm.

In 1834 he took up his residence in "the village" and erected the dwelling, for a home, now the third one west of Elm Street on the south side of the "great post road." At that time there was but one other dwelling, west of this point, to the Brookfield boundary. He moved his family into this house while yet in an unfinished condition, but as building was his business, he soon disposed of this property, purchased the land and built the dwelling now owned and occupied by Mrs. P. K. Comins.

In 1840 a "great fire" destroyed the dwelling and repair shop of David Gates and also tannery of Samuel Barnes, on the spot now occupied by the Bacon and Hayward blocks.



COL. ALONZO TEMPLE

Soon after this district was purchased by Mr. Temple and Lorenzo O. Livermore and they erected a large building, on the spot, which was used for various mechanical purposes. In 1850 this building was purchased by Bush & Grout and used as their boot manufactory.

In 1837 the woolen mill, located west of, and near Elm street dam, run by Messrs. Whittemore, Brown & Rider, was destroyed by fire. It lay in ruins until 1840 when the property

was purchased by Mr. Temple and upon it he erected a three-story stone mill, which was first occupied by Mr. Silas Eldridge for the manufacture of cotton cloth in 1841. Later this factory was owned by William Henshaw and was destroyed by fire in 1852.

At this time the business of the town was in a prosperous condition, more tenements became a necessity and to meet the call Mr. Temple made a venture, which had the appearance, then, of a hazardous project, but in a few years it proved to have been a judicious move. This venture was the opening up of a tract of land lying on the south side of the village, now known as "Canada." The land there consisted first of rocky pasture, and then dense woods, extending one quarter of a mile southerly, into what was known as the "Muzzy woods." He made a purchase extending into pasture and woods, laid out a private street, now known as Temple street and erected four houses of eight tenements, thereon. This was the entering wedge into the "Muzzy hill" property and for years following, the increase in value of land and dwellings was phenomenal, adding largely to the taxable property of the town. Later he gave the land and opened up High street, which added another handsome valuation, from which the town derived further benefit, by way of increased taxes. The Methodist church and several dwellings on Main street were also the result of his handiwork.

In his day, the hours of work, for the day laborer, or skilled artisan were from "sun to sun" and when ten hours became fixed, by law as a day, he was often heard to remark that he felt ashamed to be returning from work with the sun still one or two hours high. He enjoyed life best when most busily engaged in his work, although handicapped all his life by reason of lameness, resulting from a broken hip, at four years of age.

Possessed of a remarkable memory, he was authority on dates, or events, happening in the early history of the town and his reminiscences were often amusing and always instructive.

In his younger days he was much interested in military matters and early became a member of the Massachusetts militia. In 1823 he received his first commission, from Gov. William Eustice as ensign, and for Lieutenant from the same governor, 10th of July, 1824; was commissioned Captain by Gov. Lincoln on the 11th of August, 1826, Major on the 7th of May, 1828 and Lieutenant Colonel on the 23d of June, 1830; was honorably discharged on the 30th of May, 1831, when the regiment was disbanded.

It will be seen that he was born when John Adams was president and while George Washington was still alive and he lived to see a complete change in the social, political and commercial aspect of the world. At his decease he had nearly outlived twenty out of the twenty-one presidential administrations of the American Republic. He was one of a company to welcome Lafayette on his visit to Worcester in 1824 and had the honor of a personal interview with that illustrious patriot.

He loved a good horse and often spoke with pride of the black charger he rode at the head of his company on that occasion, paying for the same at the rate of fifteen dollars a day. He was present on Wachusett mountain on the inauguration of John Quincy Adams, when the great bon-fire was made and the mountain was rechristened into "Mount Adams," a name, however, that did not stick.

He was a state legislator, selectman and assessor. When in his vigor was active and prominent in all things that tended to the best interests and welfare of the town. He died Oct. 29, 1883.

EXTRACTS FROM SCHOOL RECORDS, DISTRICT NO. 2.

November 6, 1810. At a school meeting of the inhabitants of the Ward No. 2 met at the schoolhouse and chose Moses Livermore, moderator, and Nathan Crague, clerk, and chose Nathan Crague, committeeman for the year ensuing. Francis Adams agreed to board the school master for one dollar per week. Voted to have a school master keep two months in the winter.

December 10, 1810. Joshua Bemis, Jr., began his school and kept two months at ten dollars a month.

June 5, 1811. At a school meeting of the inhabitants of Ward No. 2 met at the school-house and chose Nathan Crague, moderator. Voted to have a school mistress to keep out the money that was due to the ward. Hired Melinda Watson to keep nine weeks at one dollar per week and the board was given. \$9.00.

October 28, 1811. At a school meeting of the inhabitants of Ward No. 2 met at the school-house and chose Caleb Morse, moderator. Nathan Crague, clerk. Voted that Oliver Morse be committeeman for the year ensuing. Voted to have a school two months in the winter. Hired Asa Mann two months and gave him twenty-four dollars and he boarded himself.

October 21, 1812. At a school meeting of the inhabitants of Ward No. 2 met at the school-house and chose Caleb Morse, moderator, Nathan Crague, clerk. Voted that Moses Livermore be committee for the year. Voted to have two months' schooling to begin the first Monday in December. Voted to give the boarding of the master in proportion to the scholars that each one sent to school. Hired Joel Grout to keep the school at ten dollars and fifty cents per month.

May 24, 1814. Then the inhabitants of school ward No. 2 met at the school-house and chose Nathan Crague, moderator. Voted to have the rest of the money due to the ward used for a woman school. Voted to give the board. Hired Betsey

Green to teach the school, for which she had an order of \$12. Remains due to the Ward No. 2, 67 cents.

May 8, 1815. Then the inhabitants of the school ward No. 2, met at the school-house and chose Amos Livermore, moderator. Voted to take five dollars of the next year's money for the use of a woman school if there was any more money that belonged to the ward for 1814, that is to replace the five dollars voted to give the board in proportion to the number of scholars that each sent.

November 7, 1815. Met according to the adjournment. Voted to give the wood. Voted to pay for the board of the master out of the town's money. Voted that the school should begin the second Monday in December if they could find a master to teach the school.

August 10, 1816. Then the inhabitants of Ward No. 2 met at the school-house, chose Joseph Wheet, moderator. Voted to have a woman's school begin as soon as they could hire a mistress. Voted that Bond White should send his children by his mending the windows.

November 29, 1816. At a meeting of the inhabitants in Ward No. 2, at the school-house, Nathan Crague, moderator, voted to take the wood and board out of the school money. Phineas Livermore agreed to get the wood at two dollars per cord. Josiah Kingsbury to measure the wood. Joel Grout agreed to board the master for one dollar and thirty-nine cents per week. Hired George Guilford to teach the school two months at nine dollars per month.

August 8, 1817. At a meeting of the inhabitants in Ward No. 2, at the school-house, Joseph Wheat, moderator, voted that Catherine Sprague keep the school six weeks at one dollar per week. Amos Livermore agreed to board for one dollar per week. Voted that the school begin on Monday, the 11th.

September 24, 1817. At a meeting of the inhabitants of Ward No. 2, chose William Denny, moderator. Voted that the winter school begin the first Monday in December. Caleb Morse agreed to board the master for one dollar per week. Josiah Kingsbury to get the wood for one dollar and ninety-seven cents per cord.

November 10, 1820. At a meeting of the inhabitants of Ward No. 2, chose Sylvester Luther, moderator. Voted to put the wood up by the lump. Thomas Kingsbury agreed to get the wood for three dollars, fifty cents for the school.

October 6, 1823. At a meeting of the inhabitants of Ward No. 2, chose John Gleason, moderator. Voted the school begin first Monday in December. Voted to buy a chair for the school-house.

———, 1827. At a meeting of the inhabitants of Ward No. 2, chose Nathan Crague, moderator. Voted that the school begin the first Monday in November. Mr. Hersey agreed to find the wood for eleven shillings sixpence a cord. Josiah Kingsbury agreed to board for 75 cents per week.

Sept. 22, 1828. At a meeting of the inhabitants of Ward No. 2, chose Elijah Hersey moderator. Voted the school begin the second Monday in November. Joel Grout agreed to get the wood at two dollars and seventeen cents per cord. Joel Grout agreed to board the master at ninety-five cents per week.

Worcester, ss.

To Joel Grout, one of the inhabitants of school Ward No. 2 in the town of Spencer, making application to us. Greeting:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are required to notify and warn all the inhabitants of school Ward No. 2 in said town qualified to vote in town affairs to meet at their school house in said town on Friday the ninth day of July next at five o'clock P. M. to vote and act on the following articles. Viz. :

1. To choose a moderator to preside in said meeting.
2. To choose a clerk for said district.
3. To see if said school ward will take measures to move said school house about the length of said building to the north of where it now stands.
4. To see if said ward will take measures to repair said school house and build an addition to the same for an entry and wood house.
5. To see if said district will raise money sufficient to purchase a stove for said school house and for to defray the expenses of the above contemplated repairs, and take any other measures they may then think necessary to carry the same into effect. And you are hereby directed to serve this warrant by notifying personally every inhabitant of said district qualified to vote in town affairs or by leaving at his place of abode a written notification expressing the time, place and purposes of said meeting seven days at least before the time appointed for the same.

Hereof fail not and make return of this warrant with your doings thereon to said meeting, at the above time and place and the clerk who shall then and there be chosen and sworn is directed to make a farther return of the same to our office.

Given under our hands and seals this twenty-eighth day of June, A. D. 1830.

WILLIAM BEMIS

DAVID PROUTY

WILLARD RICE

ELI PROUTY

Selectmen of Spencer.

Return of the afforegoing warrant.

Worcester, ss. Spencer, July 9th, 1830.

By virtue of the within warrant to me directed, I have personally or by written notice notified and warned all the freeholders and other inhabitants in school Ward No. 2 qualified to vote and act in town affairs to meet at the time and place and for the purposes mentioned in the within warrant.

Attest: JOEL GROUT.

The inhabitants qualified to vote in town affairs being convened by virtue of the above warrant at the time, place and for the purposes specified in the same.

1st. Made choice of Joel Grout for moderator.

2nd. Made choice of Caleb M. Morse for clerk.

3rd. Voted to pass over the third article.

4th. Voted to repair said school house and build an addition to the same for a wood house and entry.

5th. Voted to raise the sum of sixty dollars to pay the expense of the repairs of said house and purchase a stove for the same.

Voted to choose a committee of three to purchase the stove and repair said house as they should think proper.

Made choice of Nathan Craig, Eleazer Bemis and Joel Grout for the aforesaid committee. Voted to adjourn this meeting to the first Monday in October next at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

Attest: CALEB M. MORSE, District Clerk.

Oct. 5th, 1830. Then met according to adjournment, the report of the committee being read respecting the repairs and addition of said school house. Voted to put up the board and wood for the winter school at the lowest bidder. Mr. Nathan Craig agreed to board the master for \$1.25 per week. Captain Joel Grout to get the wood for \$2.37½ per cord.

Bill for repairs and addition made to school house Ward No. 2, presented by committee of said ward.

Paid William Watson 2nd bill for lumber	\$10.75
Asa McCullum's bill for work	9.27
Thomas G. Kingsbury's bill for lumber	2.52
Joel Grout's bill for nails, lime and sundries	7.26
Charles Watson's bill for work	6.59
Nathaniel Wilson's bill for stove	11.00
Nathan Craig's bill for lumber	13.00
	<hr/>
	\$60.31

Signed,

NATHAN CRAIG
ELEAZER BEMIS
JOEL GROUT

Committee of said Ward.

Attest, CALEB M. MORSE,
District Clerk.

Oct. 5th, 1830.

To William Pope, Treasurer of Spencer:

Pay the committee of school Ward No. 2, Sixty Dollars and this shall discharge you for the same.

Signed by the committee,

JOEL GROUT
NATHAN CRAIG
ELEAZER BEMIS.

Spencer, March 7th, 1831.

A true copy. Attest: CALEB M. MORSE.

Clerk.

April 17, 1847. At 1 o'clock P. M. a meeting of the legal voters at school house No. 2 chose Joel Grout moderator to preside at the meeting. Chose Thomas G. Kingsbury clerk for the district. Voted to repair the school house. Voted to board the house with pine boards matched and planed, and nails for the purpose. Voted to have four new windows and frames. Voted to shingle the house with good pine shingles, and nails for the purpose. Voted to purchase a stove and funnel. Voted to raise seventy-five dollars. Voted to choose a committee of three to repair the house, purchase the stove and funnel: Caleb M. Morse, Thomas G. Kingsbury and Joel Grout. Voted this committee to have money to purchase the materials to repair with.

October 7, 1858. Had a school meeting. Voted choose Willard Howe moderator. Voted to have a winter school.

Voted to spend two-thirds of the money. Voted to have school begin the 2nd Monday in November. Voted to board for two dollars per week—Waldo Wilson. Voted to have one cord good hard wood. Voted to have the lowest bidder get the wood (T. G. Kingsbury, five dollars.) Voted to have seventy-nine cents of the district's money kept by T. G. Kingsbury for repairs. Voted to have H. Streeter send his children to our school by paying ten cents apiece per week the ensuing year.

Feb. 17, 1865. Had a school meeting at 6 o'clock P. M. Voted and chose Isaac C. Tyler moderator. Voted to have school begin first of May. Voted to have one cord and half of hard wood. Voted to have the wood cut and put into the house last of May. Voted to have the wood got for ten dollars per cord—Willard Howe agrees to get it.

CHARLES F. LIVERMORE

BY HENRY CLEWS

Herewith is presented the portrait of a man who amassed a larger fortune probably, than any other person ever born in Spencer. For quite a number of years about the time of the civil war he spent his summer vacations in his native town. Mr. Henry Clews, the New York banker, has very kindly written an account of Mr. Livermore's business career especially for this work which now follows:

Charles F. Livermore, born in Spencer, Mass., came to New York as a young man and took a situation in the dry goods importing house of Coffin & Haydock. After being there a number of years he left to embark in a similar business on his own account under the firm name of Spedding & Livermore. He was unsuccessful in this venture, having met with disaster in the so-called Western cyclone panic which struck New York merchants in 1857, and caused general disaster in Wall Street and the mercantile community. Several years prior to this, Mr. Livermore married the adopted daughter of Wilson G. Hunt, who was a leading and successful dry goods importing merchant in this city, and with whom I was connected in business for many years. In this way I became well acquainted with Mr. Livermore. I left that firm and started in Wall Street as a banker and broker the latter part of 1857, and after being in my new business for two years I invited Mr. Livermore to join me, which offer he accepted, and my firm then became Livermore, Clews & Co. Mr. Livermore's name was placed first as it made the firm name sound the best, although I was the senior member. Mr. Livermore remained with me until 1865, when he retired from business with a fortune of \$750,000. In the meantime his wife died, and two years thereafter he married his second wife, Miss Emma Riley, the daughter of Captain Riley, the president at the time of the Pacific Mail Steamship Co. When Mr. Livermore died he left his widow his entire property, which had increased by good investments in real estate to be valued at \$1,600,000. His

widow in about a year after his death married Baron de Sellier of Paris, who is the brother of the famous Princess de Sagan of Paris. Mr. Livermore left three children, two boys and a girl. John, the eldest son, married Miss Brooks of Newport, R. I., who is the niece of Eugene Higgins, the famous and very wealthy yachtsman, who was the only son of E. S. Higgins,



CHARLES FREDERICK LIVERMORE.

Son of Walton Livermore. Born in Spencer July 4, 1824. Died March 25, 1889.

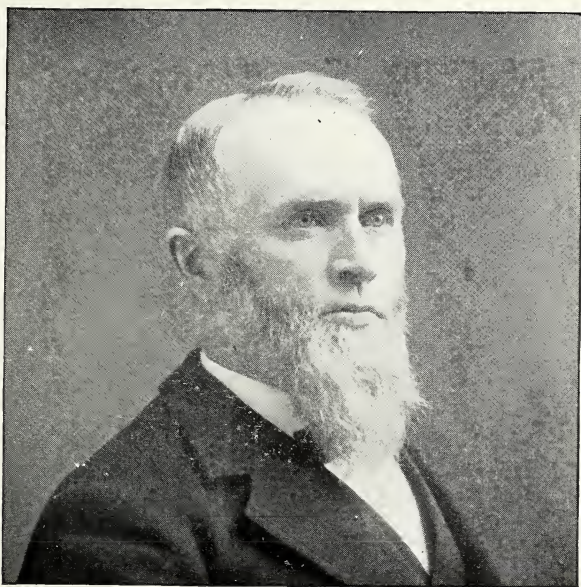
who during his time was the richest merchant in New York, having left to young Eugene and his daughter Mrs. Brooks, an estate of over forty million dollars. Mrs. Brooks' residence in Newport ranks among the palaces there.

HENRY CLEWS.

July 29, 1902.

AUGUSTUS B. PROUTY

Augustus B. Prouty, son of Liberty Prouty, wire manufacturer, inherited an inventive mind, which manifested itself while living in Worcester, in the construction of a card machine that would set six hundred teeth per minute, doubling the capacity of machines then in use and which were deemed



AUGUSTUS BISCO PROUTY

Inventor. Born in Spencer Oct. 5, 1831; died in Providence, R. I., July 19, 1897. Left home to learn the card clothing business in Leicester at the age of thirteen. Moved to Worcester in 1863; moved to Providence in 1881.

marvels of perfection. Mr. Prouty took the machine to the first Paris exposition where it attracted more attention than any other machine in the whole exhibit. Not only was a medal freely granted but Emperor Napoleon III. made a special visit to see the machine in operation, was highly

pleased, and congratulated Mr. Prouty on his achievement. The latter considered that more of an honor than the medal. While it was truly said of Mr. Prouty that "he had made more improvements in card machinery than any other man," it was also true that the machines were not a great success financially. Manufacturers were disinclined to throw out machinery already in use, which if slower did good work. The new machines were expensive, and required high grade mechanics to run them and so while he sold the Paris machine and marketed quite a number in this country, he was finally compelled to adopt another line of effort, to gain a livelihood.

This time it was a rigid door knob and he went to Providence, R. I., to manufacture them in connection with the business of the New England Butt Co. He made a great success of the knob in Providence, but health failed before he could introduce them in other large places. Mr. Prouty was quite a rhymster and a little poetry with fun mixed into its composition was brought out in connection with most all his undertakings. This is what he said about his new knob :

"Each year to all brings something new
That makes the heart with gladness throb
The last, of which we offer you,
Makes doors complete,—a rigid knob.

Once on a door 'twill so remain
As bolts hold firm 'twill never bob
And all old knobs are put to shame
By this most novel rigid knob.

This knob you'll find is always tight
As corn grown on its mother cob
Unlike it though when it is ripe
There's no come off to this new knob."

In connection with the knob business he issued a prospectus, a copy of which is herewith printed as a curiosity, and is said by good judges to be one of the best specimens of alliteration extant.

Prouty's Practical Puzzle Prospectus.

Puzzle pleasing, puzzle provoking, puzzle perusing people
please peruse.

(Profusely patented, provisionally protected.)

Preface—Piteously pleading public patronage perhaps presumptuousness partially predominates. Please pardon promulgator's prolixity.

Proclamation—Prouty's patent paragon puzzle possesses purely practical principles, perfectly pleases particular people, provokes pernicious, philosophical perceive permanence, practical pronounce perfect, prudent purchase, parsimoneous positively prefer. People possessing peculiar proclivities preferring Prouty's paradox puzzle proves pretty plainly perceptible perfection, practicability paramount, prospective perpetuity.

Proposition—Prouty proposes paying patrons princely profits providing puzzle, properly placed, prove paltry property.

Preliminary proof—Perspicuous placards, perspicuously planned, (plainly proclaiming peculiarities Prouty's patent, peerless, pleasing, promising, popular, permanent, practical puzzle possesses) promptly posted petitioners, postage prepaid. Please petition (P. P.) PROUTY, Providence.

Postscript. Please permanently preserve Prouty's practical puzzle prospectus.

HISTORY OF SPENCER POWDER MILLS

BY HENRY M. TOWER

Preface.

My grandfather, Levi Adams, made powder for eight years, learning the trade at Barre and then taking charge of the Seven Mile river mills in 1833, and later the mills on Moose Pond brook, which he superintended from the time they were built until their destruction in the fall of 1840. He had an idea that if extreme care was exercised there would be no explosions and his management was one of extreme caution. He never allowed a stick of wood to be made into coal until he had examined it carefully to see that there were no particles of bark left on its sides nor a speck of grit on the ends, and he was equally careful throughout each stage of every process. He never allowed anyone in the mill unless they wore sewed or pegged footwear and even ordered Lewis Bemis, the proprietor, out of the mills several times because he came in with mud on his boots. Mr. Bemis was a well built and muscular man, but no match for Mr. Adams, who measured forty-eight inches around his chest under the arm pits, was a noted wrestler and could pick up, shoulder and carry off a barrel of flour with ease. So Mr. Bemis went out of the mills when Mr. Adams said go. But for all his caution, the mills were destroyed one evening about twenty minutes after he had left them, apparently in good order. Mr. Adams then abandoned his theory regarding the absolute safety of careful powder making, and quit the business.

History of the Spencer Powder Mill Industry.

On the 19th of July, 1812, the United States issued a declaration of war against England. As soon as this information became known along our coast, preparations were quickly made to fit out every available ship as a privateer to prey on the enemy's commerce.

Our seamen were more than anxious to punish Great Britain for her persistent disregard of the rights of American citizens, and their skill as well as intensity of purpose cannot better be illustrated than to state that before the year closed they had captured over three hundred of England's merchant vessels, and three thousand men besides.

The demand for powder to carry on this aggressive line of warfare was unprecedented. The few little New England powder mills were overwhelmed with orders, and as fast as consecutive tons of powder could be made, were hurried to the coast and sold at an approximate price of a dollar a pound. This meant enormous profits for those who knew how, and



ROCK AT RUEL'S POND, SITE OF OLD POWDER MILL

had at hand the facilities for making powder. As early as 1810 powder was made in a modest way in a mill that stood on the site of what has long been known as the Knowles steam pump works at Warren, and on a small stream afterwards named Powder brook. Two brothers, Isaac and Lemuel Smith, were the proprietors, and employed as workmen Nathan and Samuel M. Hobbs, also brothers, from Brookfield, and these four men became the pioneers of powder making in Spencer. They established here a successful and prosperous industry which continued on without interruption until the

spring of 1861. A business legitimate, useful, and in its nature essential to the public good, but probably one more hazardous to human life than any other except railroading, ever carried on in Spencer.

Finding the water power at Warren inadequate to the needs of their expanding business, they sought an available location for other mills nearer Boston, their chief market, and within seven months from the declaration of war they had purchased at the upper end of the great meadows, and along the eastern bank of the Seven Mile river in this town ten acres of land for their proposed new mills.

Eight acres north of the road they bought of Elias Hatch for \$221.00 and on this land built a dam and raceway, some portions of which are still to be seen. Their mill pond when full, covered quite an area of land belonging to other parties, north of the Whittemore bridge, for the use of which the Smith brothers and their successors paid an annual flowage tax. The owners of this land in 1823 were Washington Hill and Reuben Whittemore.

On the north side of the road also and west of the canal they erected a refinery in which saltpetre was purified for the powder mixture. About three rods farther west was located a small brick building used for making charcoal from the wood of the alder and white maple wholly denuded of its bark.

The two acres of land south of the road was purchased from Ezra Bennett for \$106.00, and later additional land was bought from him as the demands of the business increased. On this land they built what was long known as the old powder mill house and where the cellar is still to be seen. It was in this house that the mill superintendents usually lived and where most of the workmen boarded.

*The Powder Mill at Warren was abandoned after the Smiths came to Spencer. One day in November, 1818, three boys, David Child being one, obtained access to the mill. Each had a gun and were amusing themselves firing off caps. It was not long before an explosion took place and all were well burned, though not permanently injured. William Child of Templeton, grandfather of David, kept a diary and thus records in regard to the matter.

Nov. 5. Heard the sorrowful news of David's being burnt. Mr. Knight came over to inform us. It was desired that we all go. * * * *

Friday, 6. * * * * We arrived there, and found David shockingly burnt, and in a dangerous situation. * * * *

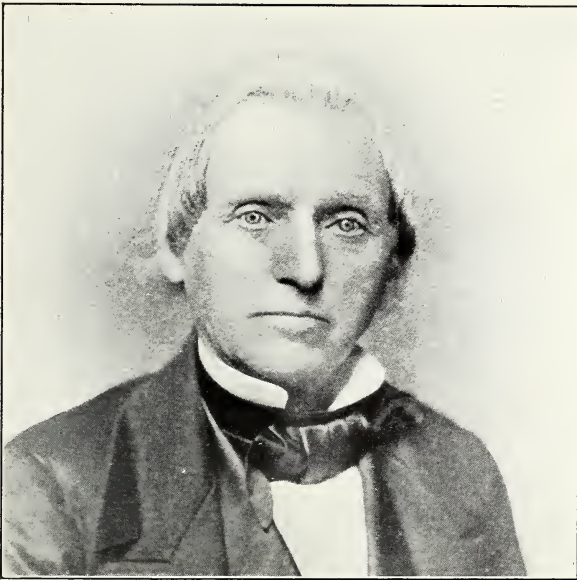
Saturday, 7. Saw David's sores drest, appearance as favorable as could be expected. * * * * Elisha, Thomas and myself went to see the powder mill. We think it strange that they were not burnt worse. David is burnt the worst of the three boys. The names of the other two are Abner Burroughs and George Burroughs, the last of which was burnt the slightest—will be about in a week or two.

Monday, 9. The Doct. came at 9 o'clock and drest the sores—(his name is Hutchins) he has guarded against mortification—has been some appearance of it—it takes nearly two hours to get through with the dressing. * * * * In the evening the Doct. came found the sores not so well. Some more appearance of mortification—applied more anticeptick dressings—a poultice of flour and emptions, or yeast—and bark. * * * *

Dec. 14. * * * * Tidings of David's recovery. Sores all healed but a spot on one hand.

A short distance easterly they built a small barn used as a cow stable, and also large enough to shelter the horse and carriage of the proprietors during their daily visits from the village, for it is a point worthy of observation that with rare exceptions all the powder mill owners lived in the village, or at least at a safe distance from the mills.

On the site of the house recently occupied by Charles Wilson, and formerly used as a planing mill by the late Samuel Barnes, the first powder mill was erected. It was here that the ingredients were mixed in a long wooden trough or mortar made from an oak log. Vertical wooden pestles operated by



SAMUEL HOBBS

machinery and moving up and down made the mixture homogeneous and ready to be pressed into sheets. These were about an inch thick and subjected to very great pressure. When dry they were fed between heavy corrugated apple-tree rollers, crushed into kernels, separated as to size and then glazed or finished and taken to the dry house, quite a distance farther south.

The dry house was heated by a fire built from the western and outside of the building under an arch of brick about on

a level with the floor, and extending about four feet inward to an inverted iron kettle. The kettle was covered with brick and mortar, the combination being fireproof. Then with a good fire underneath sufficient heat was generated to dry the powder inside the building ready for packing in kegs. Then it was taken to the magazine located on the hill northeasterly, and stored for shipment. With the plant thus completed it is thought the business was in active operation as early as August, 1813.

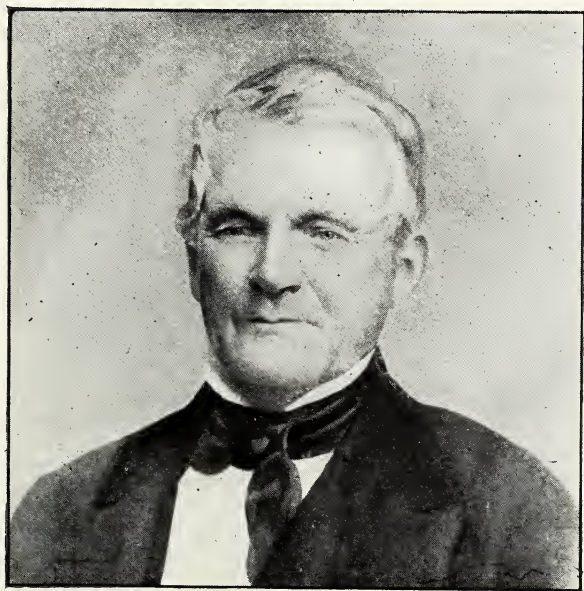
Little information is now obtainable regarding the senior partner, Isaac Smith. He was a married man and well-to-do for his time. He was in Spencer with his younger brother Lemuel, and paid a poll tax here in 1813. It is thought that as soon as the mills were completed he returned to Warren and continued to operate the mill there until about the time of its explosion in 1818. He died in 1826.

Lemuel Smith was an honorable gentleman, short and portly. He was a very self confident man, outspoken in his opinions, and a vigorous champion of any cause he deemed to be right. He lived on the farm now owned by George Wilson, known as the George Bemis place, west of the Moose Hill farm house.

It is related by the late Thomas Whittemore, the distinguished Universalist preacher, that wishing to promulgate the doctrines of that denomination in Spencer about the year 1828, he sent forward to some citizens of that faith then living in town an appointment to preach in Spencer on a certain date, and they endeavored to secure the Congregational church as a place of meeting. "But," said Whittemore, "when I reached town, I found the church doors were barred against us" and because of this "the large and lion hearted Lemuel Smith, not an adherent or believer then in our doctrines, opened the doors of his house as a place of worship and bid us welcome." It is thought Mr. Smith at this time became interested in the Universalist faith, as later he became one of its foremost champions.

From the following lease given by the town of Spencer to Mr. Smith, it seems probable that prior to 1828 he had been an attendant of the Congregational church: "I, William Pope, Town Clerk, by authority vested in me by a vote of said town of Spencer passed at a legal town meeting on the sixth day of November, 1826, do hereby lease unto the said Smith, his heirs and assigns, the following described shed lot : viz.—Lot No. 3 range of shed lots situated at the east end of the center meeting house fronting the town common, and is according to the plan

of the allotment made out by a committee chosen for that purpose by the town, of the following dimensions, viz. ten feet in width and nineteen feet in depth, sold at public auction and struck off to Smith for \$22, he being the highest bidder. In consideration of this \$22 he has the lease of the lot for forty years, and paying therefor the rent of nothing. And he also promised to build a new shed the next season according to the plans made by the town committee, also to pay all taxes and assessments on the shed and keep the same in good repair."



LEWIS BEMIS

It is related of Mr. Smith that after the death of his first wife, Mary, Sept. 4, 1818, he boarded a short time at the Jenks tavern, and occupied the chamber directly over the bar room in the southeast corner of the house. Access to his room was gained from a large hall frequently used for dances and entertainments. The platform was at the east end of the hall and near his chamber door. A musical entertainment was about to be given by two women who were for the times distinguished performers, one on the violin and the other on the violincello.

The audience was in waiting, when the women mounted the platform and commenced tuning their instruments. It is apparent Mr. Smith was not a musician. He supposed the tuning of these instruments should have been done before coming to the platform but that the women found no suitable place and hence tuning them in public was a source of embarrassment. So he arose in the back part of the hall, and publicly though very politely offered the ladies the use of his chamber until the instruments should be properly attuned. Everybody laughed but Mr. Smith, and all the more heartily because he took the matter seriously, and evidently could not see that there was anything funny in his proposition.

About 1830 it was a common saying that Lemuel Smith and John Muzzy were the best farmers in town. They had the best stock, were progressive men for the times, extremely intimate, and often arranged to make business trips together, especially to Worcester to sell hay, each driving a yoke of oxen with a horse in the lead. Mr. Muzzy lived on the summit of Maple street hill, the road to his house from town then being known as Muzzy Lane. Muzzy Meadow pond also derived its name from the same source.

It was during Mr. Smith's management of the powder mills that the first explosion occurred. This was one Sunday evening, probably in the winter of 1819 and '20. What establishes this as a probable date is the fact that in the spring of 1820, Samuel M. Hobbs was courting Caroline, daughter of Reuben Whittemore, and married her Oct. 18, 1820. He said the explosion took place before his marriage. The time of the year and day of the week are established by the fact that Dwight, son of Elias Hatch, was at that time courting Philetta Hobbs, sister of Samuel, every Sunday evening in the parlor of the old powder mill house. The night of the explosion he was out of town and it seems to have been well that this was so, since the brick hearth in front of the fire place, where the young couple usually sat, was completely destroyed. All the windows in the house were destroyed and wreckage of furniture was to be seen in every room, although none of the inmates were injured. Crockery was shaken off from shelves and broken in the house of Mr. Willard Prouty at Hillsville. Mr. Horatio Hall of Lincoln Street, who recently died, aged ninety-five, well remembered this explosion. He was asleep at the time in a trundle bed at the Sullivan Hill farm house at Hillsville, known then as the David Barnes place.

Prior to this time it had been whispered around that Mr. Smith's powder was very poor in quality and that it would

not burn if touched with a live coal. This explosion gave some man of imagination an opportunity to add a new paragraph to these stories, and now it was said that at the time of the explosion kegs of powder were seen flying through the air, hoops, heads and staves all afire, but carrying the powder still intact. Whether there was much or any truth in the original stories we cannot now tell, but this is known, that as late as 1848 a keg of his powder was in the United States magazine at Watertown and on the above date was said to be of fine quality and in an excellent state of preservation. It was part of a lot made for the government years before for a special purpose, the kernels of which were about the size of medium beans. The name of the man who is supposed to have given wings to his imagination in creating the flying powder keg story was Andrew Morgan. He was a carpenter, built and owned the house now occupied by the Manning sisters, on the road south of the house owned by Mr. Horace Austin on Morgan hill. He was a pensioner of the war of the Revolution, and Morgan Pond, lying northeasterly of his house, was named after him, but his chief claim to distinction was in his ability to fabricate stories. Perhaps one will suffice. He said he was helping shingle the Congregational church and ascending a ladder had reached the eaves with a thousand shingles under each arm, when the ladder broke. Still holding the shingles under his arms, he grasped with his teeth the lower course of shingles nailed on the roof and remained suspended in that position until another ladder could be secured from Deacon Sumner's on lower Main street. The old saying about the irony of fate possibly may have an illustration in the fact that in 1824 Mr. Morgan became indebted to Lemuel Smith, and the latter came into possession of his place for \$60. Mr. Smith sold his interest in the powder mills in 1832, moved to Worcester about 1835 and later lived at Westfield, where he died of heart disease, August 27, 1866, aged eight-five, having outlived two wives and all six of his children.

Samuel M. Hobbs came from Warren with the Smith brothers. He appears to have been the practical powder maker from the beginning, and with his older brother Nathan, sister Philetta and mother, were the first occupants of the Powder mill house. Samuel M. was a cousin of the late George L. Hobbs of this town. He commenced work for the Smith brothers in 1810 and prior to his removal to Spencer was engaged much of the summer time in supplying saltpetre for the Warren mill. In those days and in this section it was obtained from the evaporation of a lye made by leaching water

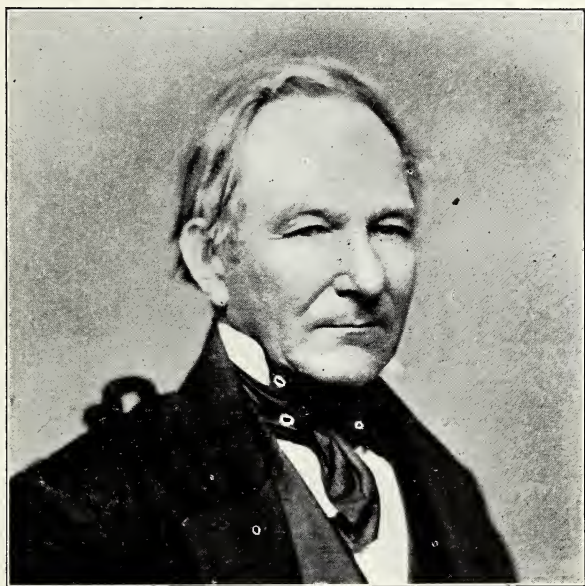
through earth that had been gathered from underneath old buildings, and had remained in a dry state for years ; the longer the better Mr. Hobbs stated to his son, Warren J. Hobbs, an elderly man now living in Worcester that he had worked a great many days under buildings lying flat on his back, scraping up earth for this purpose. While he found saltpetre in all places where he worked, it abounded most in the earth at Wilbraham. This pursuit at this time was one of great profit, since saltpetre found a ready sale at one dollar per pound.

January 10, 1814, Joseph Wiley Patrick acquired a one-fourth interest in the mills which he resold to the Smith brothers September 2nd of the year following. Mr. Patrick followed the life of a farmer at Warren, where he was born July 23, 1788, and where he died the same day of the month 1858. February 10, 1816, Samuel M. Hobbs acquired a one-fourth interest in the mills. He lived on the premises and had charge of the mills until 1823 when he sold out to Walter W. White of Spencer, a young man twenty-three years of age, son of Nathan White, brother of Moores Mirick White and uncle of Mrs. Phoebe Anna Bemis. February 6, 1826, for \$525 he sold his interest to Walton Livermore and removed to New York State, where he became a successful merchant. Mr. Hobbs, after disposing of his interest in the mills, purchased what is now known as the Bemis Valley Farm and followed the life of a farmer for about ten years, when he removed to Barre, to take charge of the Barre powder mills, which he had been instrumental in establishing in 1826 in company with three other Spencer men, Silas, Charles and Lewis Bemis. He was a tall, slim man of great energy and after he had acquired a competence in the business removed to Worcester where he died.

After Mr. Livermore had purchased the interest of Mr. White he also bought a one-fourth interest of Lemuel Smith and the business was then conducted by Smith and Livermore as equal partners until February 25, 1832, when Lewis Bemis acquired Smith's interest. July 6, 1835, Livermore sold out to Bemis, who from thence on, until his death in 1856, was sole proprietor. After this his heirs continued the business until the spring of 1861. Walton Livermore was a man of unimpeachable integrity. He kept store in the large block now standing and used as a dwelling, corner of Main and North streets. He held many town offices of honor and trust. There were few Savings banks in those days and none in country towns and he was often made the custodian of sums

of money the citizens wished to put out at interest, and it is believed that no one ever lost either principal or interest on money placed in his keeping. His son, Charles F. Livermore became distinguished as a financier and was a partner in the New York banking firm of Livermore, Clews & Co., after his retirement known as Henry Clews & Co. Walton Livermore died July 13, 1835, aged forty-nine.

After Lewis Bemis got full control of the powder business he at once planned to extend the same, and obtained as a partner a farmer from Oakham, named Edward Hall, a man of



AMOS BEMIS

education, ability and strict integrity. He moved into the old powder mill house in 1838 and took charge of what later became known as the lower mills. In the meantime Mr. Bemis had caused to be erected on Moose pond brook what was called the upper mills, designed to manufacture the finer grades of sporting powder, while the lower mills made what was known as blasting powder. All his plans matured well and business prospered until 1840, when two disastrous explosions occurred and so much uninsured property was destroyed that the upper mills were never rebuilt. The first explosion occurred April

26, 1840. The following account is taken from the Barre Gazette. "The powder mill belonging to Messrs. Bemis & Hall, about a mile from the lower village, was blown up on Tuesday, April 26, and three men were killed by the explosion. The accident is supposed to have resulted from the use of an iron bar to pry up some timbers in making repairs on the mill. Abijah Bemis, Lyman Bullard (quite lately in the employ of Hobbs, Bemis & Co. of this town) and Burroughs, a Frenchman, were blown in different directions to a distance of twelve to fifteen rods, and dreadfully mangled. Mr. Bullard's hand was nearly driven into the ground, his flesh badly lacerated and many bones broken. Breath was discovered in the body of Burroughs after the first comers reached the scene. A carpenter named Worthington, engaged in the repair of the mill, had a most narrow escape. He left the mill but a moment before and the weather being chilly ran from it. He had not reached fifteen rods before the explosion. About two hundred kegs of powder were burned and the loss including that of the building, which was of trifling value, is supposed to amount to about \$1,200. The explosion was heard and distinctly felt in our village, a distance of fifteen miles, and the smoke was seen to roll up in a dense column."

Bullard and Burroughs boarded with Edward Hall. Mr. Bullard was a large and rather portly man, of an agreeable disposition and known as the old powder maker. Mr. Bemis was from Paxton. He lived on what was known as the Bennett place, on land now owned by Noah Sagendorph. He belonged to what has become known as the Paxton branch of the Bemis family, and was thirty-seven years old at the time of his death. His grandfather, Abijah, was one of the earliest settlers of that town, coming from Watertown in 1751, and was a nephew of Samuel Bemis, the second settler in Spencer. Mr. Bemis was a brother of Amos Bemis, the father of William O. Bemis, the landscape painter; of Edwin P. Bemis lately deceased, and Amasa T. Bemis now living at Hillsville. Amos Bemis had been the superintendent of the powder mills from 1823 to 1828, but on account of his health gave up the business and purchased of his mother-in-law, Ezekiel Tucker's widow and other heirs, named Huldah Tucker, June 28, 1830, the farm now owned by his grandson, Leslie W. Bemis. Amos Bemis was laying wall on his farm when the explosion occurred. He at once said to his son Amasa, who stood near, "Abijah is dead," and going to his house took his team and drove to the scene of the disaster. Mrs. Bemis, whose maiden name was Eliza Newhall, with her two small children, Mary, six years

and Charles, nine months old, were on their way to the village. As the sound of the terrible explosion rang out on the air she sank on a wayside stone and also exclaimed, "Oh, dear, Abijah is dead." His body was so disfigured that it was only recognizable by a scar on one foot that had been protected by a boot.

Stephen Burroughs, as he was commonly called, was a France Frenchman of good education. His right name was Stephen Borasso. It is supposed that the assessor who first took his name could not understand the Frenchman's pronunciation and so wrote the name in English as it sounded to him. Mr. Borasso taught Mrs. Hall, his landlady, how to speak and write French during the winter prior to his death. He was of medium height, spare, quick in motion, and a noted dancer.

It is quite clear that no explosion ever occurred at these mills resulting in loss of life that was not due to somebody's carelessness or thoughtlessness. It was so in this case. A change in mechanical methods was about to be made, the old mortar taken out and a cylinder rumbler put in, in its stead. The old mortar was heavy and in order to remove it, must needs be pried up and got onto rollers. Mr. Orin S. Worthington, father of Charles E. and Liberty Worthington, well known citizens of Spencer, was the man in charge of the work and he had secured two oak sticks as levers for the operation. He went into the mill and gave directions how to do the work. Mr. Borasso asked if he could not go and borrow an iron crowbar of Daniel Capen, who then lived where Abner Smith does now. Mr. Worthington said, "By no means would I allow you to use a bar." Mr. Worthington then started for the refinery where he had the new cylinder in process of construction and had only gone about half the distance when the explosion took place throwing him violently on the ground. It was found afterwards by the location of timbers and boards that had he been in any other location he would have been hit by the flying timbers and probably killed. Mr. Borasso already had borrowed the bar and had it in hiding when talking to Mr. Worthington and when his body was found near the river, had the bar tightly grasped in his hands. The three men were buried in one grave in the northeast corner of the old burying ground, and probably on land now in use as a road.

On October 12, 1840 the upper mills were completely destroyed by an explosion between eight and nine o'clock in the evening. About two tons of powder was in the drying house and the whole force of the explosion seemed to be ex-

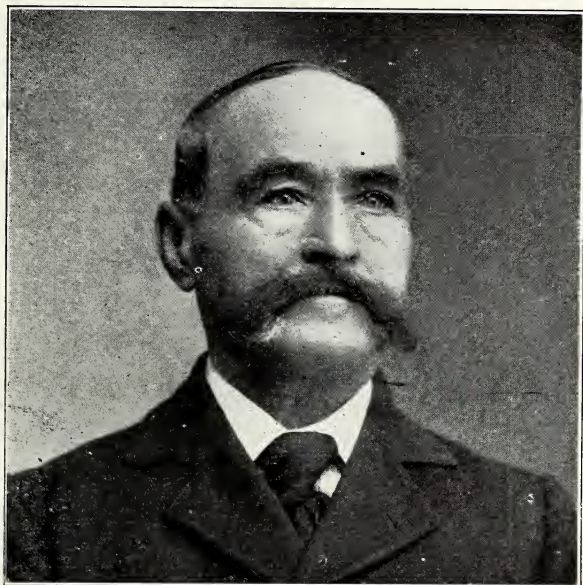
pended toward the east. A heavy growth of wood was between the drying house some six rods away from the pond and the road leading to Wire Village. The trees were mown down like grass for a space two rods wide clear to the road.

The roof of what is now known as the Hogan house, but then occupied by Levi Adams had that portion of the roof facing the west raised about a foot. Windows were blown in and doors taken off their hinges. Mr. Adams' clock had the pendulum thrown across the road where it was found in the bushes the next day. Daniel W. Adams, of Pleasant Street has this clock now in his possession. Jacob W. Jones, father of Jarvis H. Jones, was then living in what was known as the long house on the Allen Ure lot. The explosion burst inward the outside door, which before had been closed and an oak wedge put in over the latch for a fastening, forcing the heavy wrought iron latch and catch out of a heavy oak stud into which it had been firmly driven, and shooting it across the room and deeply indenting the base board.

Mrs. Betsey Adams was in bed at the Hogan house at the time with a babe only a few days old and she had just covered the babe with bed clothing when the window came crashing in cutting with broken glass her arms, hands and breast in places almost without number, the scars of which always remained. Crockery was shaken off shelves in the Worcester stores and at Leicester Academy the building shook so the students thought for a moment the building was coming down. After the surprise was over a stage coach was chartered and as many as could possibly ride thereon came to view the scene.

February 11, 1852, the cylinder mill exploded, instantly killing John McCartha, a young and muscular Irishman who had boarded with his sister Mrs. Canary, at the long house on the Allen Ure lot. Edward Hall, one of the proprietors, was so injured that he only lived about two and one-half hours after his removal to his house at the Bemis Valley farm. Edward Henry Hall was also in the mill and with the others was blown up on to the embankment some fifty feet from the mill and at least twenty feet higher. His hair was burned completely off and the skin on his hands and face peeled off in great flakes. But he recovered in a few months and is said to have been the only man ever blown out of a mill who survived. He is now living at Kansas City, Mo. McCartha was taken to Worcester for interment, while Mr. Hall was buried at Pine Grove cemetery. It is claimed by those now living, who knew Mr. Hall intimately, that he was the best man they ever knew. His father was an English sea captain, who on a voyage to Bos-

ton became enamoured of a young woman, afterwards the mother of Edward Hall. After one or two voyages from Boston and return the captain again sailed and neither he nor his vessel was ever again heard from. The widow being in destitute circumstances bound out her boy Edward, to a butcher at Waltham, while she took a position as cook at the old Exchange hotel in Worcester, where she educated well her only daughter, who afterwards became the first wife of Isaac N. Stearns of this town. The young man, Edward, increased in favor with both God and man. Isaac Stearns, the father of



EDWARD HENRY HALL

Isaac N. Stearns, who built and lived at that time in the house now owned by James Hunter in the northwest corner of Spencer, used frequently to go to Boston to sell cattle and other products of his farm and wished to get a good reliable young man to assist him. He inquired at the Waltham hotel if such a young man could be found in that section and at once young Hall was recommended as the right man if he could be induced to go. The conference proving satisfactory, young Hall packed all his earthly effects in a handkerchief and swinging the same over his shoulder, started for Spencer on foot, while

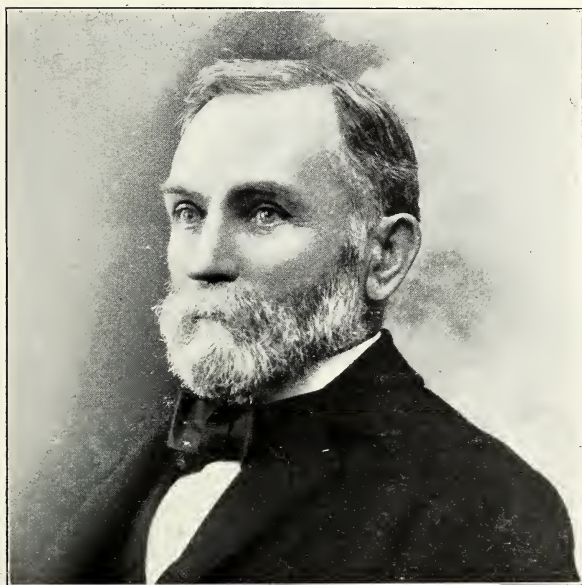
Mr. Stearns went his way to Boston. The young man proved to be all he was recommended, married Narcissa Stearns, the daughter, and finally succeeded to the management of the home farm. For some reason he afterwards went to Oakham and lived for a brief period and it was there that Edward Henry was born. His fame as an honest, capable man reaching the ears of Lewis Bemis, he succeeded in inducing Mr. Hall to give up his Oakham farm and come to Spencer and engage in powder making. This change was effected early in 1838 and James Elliott, the second son, was born in the old Powder mill house; after this two daughters, Mary and Abbie, were born. But Mr. Hall still longed for a farmer's life and purchased the Bemis Valley farm and from that time until his death was both farmer and powder manufacturer. What is now the Agricultural grounds was Mr. Hall's oat field.

At the time of the explosion the ground was covered with snow and a thaw was in progress. The water was high in the canal and on the night of the 10th of February the man in charge of the mill press, William Bixby, had put on too much power and run the screw down so tightly that he could not stir it. That night Bixby got under the influence of liquor and did not put in an appearance in the morning. So Mr. Hall was sent for to see if he could get the press in working condition. In trying to do this the gears slipped by and although the gears were always kept smeared with tallow and lard, the fatal spark was engendered by the great friction and the rest is known. Bixby was the man to blame. Mr. Hall was a staunch Methodist and gave four hundred dollars toward the church building fund at the time of its erection in 1847, and was forty-six years old at the time of his death. He is also said to have had a hand in the underground railroad scheme to transport slaves from the south to Canada; at least two negroes were known to have stopped at his house at Valley farm, and were helped on their way north.

The following description of scenes following the explosion of Feb. 11, 1852, is from the pen of Mr. James E. Hall and were written to the writer from Watsonville, California.

This is the anniversary of the cruel day, forty-eight years ago, when my father, after five hours of excruciating agony, passed away—a day so filled with horror that all the intervening years have not sufficed to remove the impression made upon my boyish memory. Every year the dreadful details of that explosion which shook the barn where I was, at the Bemis Valley farm, until I verily believed it nothing less than the blast of

Gabriel's trumpet concluding all things earthly—my groping for the light to see the changing earth and skies—mother's cry of agony from the door of the house looking toward the powder mills with hands outstretched to the utmost, as if in desperation to reach to the rescue—that cloud, thick, sulphurous, black and impenetrable as doom, palling the valley and reaching out ominously over the graves in the cemetery—the frenzied run to the old boarding house, where I was born on the powder mill land, where I met my brother Henry, burned and bleeding and black as a cinder—my uncle, Prentice Stearns running aimlessly round and round the house with hardly sense enough left in his distraction to cry, 'Take this



JAMES ELLIOT HALL

Died Aug. 27, 1901

pail of water and run to your father, or he will be dead before you get there'—the desperate run over the hill impeded by the water and two feet of slush and snow—overtaken and helped on the hill by Augustus Hunter—the ghastly spectacle in that valley of death, where we found two dying men, the first just moaning out his final complaints and making the convulsive motions of a hasty and unwilling exit—the other the

sublime martyrdom of a saint on fire, his clothes still blazing with inextinguishable brimstone, his features burned and streaming with blood, his body hopelessly torn and fatally mutilated in vital and tender parts, with eyes closed and face uplifted and thoughts elevated above self and pain, praying alone in the presence of death that God would remember his family and spare his injured son, while with his hands he bathed his flesh with the cold and snowy slush, which he said felt most agreeable to him—the thoughtless eagerness of a child throwing over him all that cold water and nearly taking his breath away—the rapid gathering of the multitudes—the bearing of him away—the death in the house—the awful gloom of that night of despair in the agony of a broken hearted mother, when death seemed willing to crush us all—all these details are still vivid and years do not fade them, but I am glad the memory of that great, grand life abides also with me and its influence for good all through my life has been like a constant benediction.”

James Elliott Hall acquired a good education and graduated from Brown University. He preached a few years in Massachusetts and Maine, and then went west and engaged in business. The following poem from his pen gives us some features concerning his birthplace and life at the old powder mill house, which otherwise would have been forever lost from the memory of man :

Mr. Hall has recently deceased.

MY BIRTHPLACE.

By JAMES E. HALL.

(Old Powder Mill House, Seven-mile River.)

And this is my birthplace! It must be the place,
Though the buildings are gone, and the walls, and each trace
Of the old apple-tree in whose branches we played,
And ate its green fruit in the swing in its shade.
The cellar is here, but I don't recall how,
Exactly, it looked, it's so tumbled down now;
But hidden away in its dark embrace,
Was the old brick oven's expansive place,
Which with roaring flame, in weekly repeat,
Was fervently kindled to furnace heat,
And dazzling domes of old fashioned brown bread,
And beans on its sizzling hot floor were spread:
Plum puddings, and pies, and sweet ginger cake
And all tempting things a mother could make.
And well I remember the big glowing fires
Where father sat late with neighboring squires,

And mother, equipped with needle and shears,
Swift suited the costumes to sex and our years;
While we hid behind her scarce blinking for dread,
Lest we should be seen and sent hapless to bed.
And who so insensuate his heart does not feel
Th' alluring warmth of that fireside's appeal
To a sensitive child, who nightly repeats,
Its hated exchange for two icy sheets?
And lovingly lingers absorbing the fire,
As a latent reserve, when forced to retire,
If haply his overcharged body may hold
Some remnant of heat to frustrate the cold;
When every warm garment is quickly withdrawn
For a blistering nightgown of transparent lawn,
And the nude urchins must somehow contrive
To curl up together and shake and survive.
Ah, here is the well! Mysterious place
Where the bucket went down; With a stone o'er its face,
And a gray old sweep swinging high in the air,
With a rock at the end to balance it there.
All these in satire have mouldered away;
And the curb where we peeped, intent to survey.
What mother's authority strictly denied,
The elfs or hobgoblins that might be inside.
In spite of remonstrance and argument;
In spite of the time she idly spent,
Relating examples of loss of life
With which such audacious exploits were rife,
Resolve was fixed to do what was forbid,
And know what in that dark cavern was hid.
And so it was that by danger beguiled,
Desire to rebel, which possesses the child,
And that masterful passion to understand
The unknown and forbidden on every hand,
In stolen moments when no one was near,
We dared our destiny on tiptoe here,
And over the curbings great bolts we hurled,
And listened response from the under-world.
The barns where we played and the kites we flew
The fruits we sampled and the trees where they grew;
E'en the hills and the vales have changed in their mould
And the childhood seems now like a tale that is told.
The mills and the flumes have gone to decay,
And the old stone dam has crumbled away;
The pond where we fished and boated and swam

Crept under the stones and has gone with the dam;
And now a small stream it's straight margin shows
And in its first channel it now again flows.
Great logs have been gathered from fields we tilled,
The meadows we mowed with forests are filled;
The hollow wherein the autumn before
My infancy attained the age of four,
With resolute purpose and firm set will,
I climbed at sunset the steep pasture hill,
And spurned indignantly there on the ground—
The old red silk hood which my head had crowned,
And renounced it there, in firm protest
That I would not be a dubious guest,
And valiantly homeward my way pursued
In scorn that my sex might be misconstrued,
That hollow then in its profusion bore
Sweet pasturage over its grassy floor,
And cows brought down at morn and night
Abundant treasures from its green clad height:
That hollow and hill are now overspread
With thick underbrush—and all overhead
Great forest arms in a miracle swing
And mosses and vines to its pine trees cling.
The neighbors around us on every side
Have gone one by one—migrated or died,
And no one remains with these exiles here
To share in a sigh or mingle a tear;
Not even a flower turns its sweet-scented face
To welcome us back to this love-hallowed place,
To which in all climes as a magnet my soul,
Thrilled by remembrance, has turned to its pole.
No matter how humble, how lowly in guise,
'Twas ever a palace to my childish eyes,
Whose hearthstone had round it as merry a crew
And echoed with joys as bright as e'er flew.
As I stand here where I first saw the day,
And note how the life marks are fading away;
How just a smoothness on everything round
And outlines of grace on hillock and mound
Alone remain—the last lingering trace
That some one has lived here and still haunts the place—
I see bright processions memory led,
Of some who are living and more who are dead,
And they seem just as ardent, hopeful and gay
And young, as if they left us yesterday;

Those playmates whose dreams would daily unfold
 In visions of glory, dominion, or gold,
 But later, poor fellows, have earnestly tried
 To make something of life, and failed, and died;
 And yet wider visions of care cumbered men
 Each bent with his burden, as I, since then,
 Compelled to suffer and bear all the way
 Restraints and hardships no rewards can repay,
 Struggling against hope for promises delayed,
 With life aims blasted and friendships betrayed.
 Driven through life like clouds o'er the sun's face,
 To give room for others who crowd for our place,
 A river of sorrows flowing on through the years
 And lost in a desert whence it ne'er reappears.

EPILOGUE.

Of all that band of days of yore,
 Who played about the cottage door,
 Just three of us are here today,
 With faces changed and locks turned gray;
 From circles that the years divide
 Across the land from side to side;
 These, from the noble old Bay State—
 This, from the matchless Golden Gate;
 A sister, prompt and bold to act
 And make her generous thought a fact,
 A cousin, loyal, brave and true—
 We three our childhood here renew.
 We tread again the paths we trod,
 We view the same green velvet sod,
 We hear the birds whose music fills
 As formerly the woods and hills,
 We see the same unclouded sky,
 The same sweet daisies greet the eye,
 And yet from all the eye and ear
 There's something gone which should be here,
 A vacancy in everything,
 In flowers that bloom and birds that sing;
 And wait and listen as we will
 These wanted things are absent still.
 We kneel again in thought once more
 As suppliants on the conscious floor,
 And wonder if from some bright star
 They see us through the gates ajar,

Or in their sympathy draw near
Invisible, yet truly here.
But since so much of life is gone,
What matters that we still live on?
Still wanting that so long denied,
Still with our hearts unsatisfied?
Still homesick, yearning still
As orphaned children ever will
Inalienable heritage
Of early loss of parentage?
But we believe that somewhere yet
These early longings will be met,
These hearts will find their due redress
Encompassed round with tenderness,
In some condition find and know
The loved ones lost so long ago.
For who the warm and generous heart
Forever from its loves shall part?
Who finally consent to lay
His dead in hopelessness away,
Close down the dumb and cruel lid
Where all that death has left is hid,
And see the angel seal his book,
Without one faithborn upward look,
Without one word of hope expressed—
Sorrow's last welcome saving guest—
Hope that the dead shall yet revive?
Nay! that our loved ones still survive!

JAMES ELLIOT HALL,
Oakland, California.

After the death of Mr. Hall, Mr. Bemis hired four Englishmen to operate the powder mills. They were all more or less intemperate and had been discharged from the British government powder mills on that account. Their names were Henry Avis, aged twenty-two; Richard Avis, aged thirty-three; George Swallow, aged twenty-seven; and Richard Perkins, aged thirty-seven. These four with John McLaughlin, a teamster, were all killed by an explosion on November 5, 1853. November 4th, the water being high, an endeavor was made to run the press screw down as rapidly as possible with the result that the head of one of the four corner rods which were about three inches in diameter, gave way with sufficient force to fly upward through the roof. Nothing further could be done but to take the rod out, and carry it to Worcester for repairs, and this was being attempted. The teamster was there with a

single horse and wagon backed up to the door. Three men were in the wheel pit to help pull the rod down, while two were above. It is supposed in striking the rod on the end too much force was used, a spark struck, and the men instantly launched into eternity. Mr. McLaughlin was an Irishman aged twenty-five, and his body was taken to Worcester for burial. The others were buried in the potter's field, a short distance in rear of the Congregational church. The three men in the pit had their clothing wholly torn off, but their bodies were uninjured. It is probable they were perspiring freely as the work progressed, for their bodies washed by the running water were as clean as though they had taken a Turkish bath. Richard Perkins and George Swallow were the two men overhead. The body of Perkins was blown over the river westerly, over the clump of trees now standing, into the meadow of the late Abner Smith. Mrs. Smith saw the body in its flight and saw the man try to sit up after he alighted, but he sank back exhausted and probably expired immediately. Perkins was a man who looked every inch a pirate after the Bluebeard order. What he was in fact we shall never know. The body of George Swallow was found by Mr. Henry I. Wybert some distance west in what was then an open meadow. A short time previous these Englishmen had purchased a barrel of beer at Worcester and had it stored in the Valley farm cellar. This was about two-thirds gone and it is supposed they had been imbibing too freely for their own safety.

Henry Avis, who was making the powder by contract, was a fine looking man, weighing 180 pounds. He was engaged to be married to Widow Hall, with whom he in common with the others had been boarding. She had gone to Reading, where the marriage was to have taken place in the evening of the very day of the explosion. He was to have taken the noon train. Mrs. Hall had made all preparations for a fine supper and was out on the street when she heard the newsboys crying, "Great powder mill explosion at Spencer! Five men killed." Her heart sank within her at such news, as she realized at once that her lover was among the dead.

Mr. Henry I. Wybert and his cousin, the late Thomas S. Wright, well known to our citizens, worked at the powder mill's a short time prior to this explosion and at a time when a new mill built near the river, exploded at night without loss of life. This was enough for these two men and they quit the business at once. Mr. Lewis Bemis tried to persuade them to continue, but Mr. Wright, who had been a seafaring man, told him he would "go to sea until he was bald headed" before he would

again work in a powder mill. It was well they concluded so, or else it is possible they might have shared the fate of the others.

The last man to lose his life by a powder mill explosion was William Bixby. This occurred July 9, 1854. He was about thirty-four years old, unmarried, and a most dissolute man. Bixby said before Independence Day he was going to have one more good long drunk before he was blown up and he did, and it was said and currently believed that at the time of the explosion and first day of work since his drunk, he walked purposely into the mill with a pipe in his mouth. Thus it will be seen that in every case of loss of life at these mills it was due to gross carelessness preceded on the part of some one by an immoderate use of intoxicating liquors. A summary of those killed is as follows: Abijah Bemis, Lyman Bullard and Francis Borasso, April 21, 1840; Edward Hall, and John McCartha, February 11, 1852; John McLaughlin, George Swallow, Richard Perkins, Richard Avis and Henry Avis, November 5, 1853; William Bixby, July 9, 1854.

Summary of the owners of the Spencer powder mills: Isaac Smith from 1813 to 1816; Samuel Smith from 1813 to 1832; Samuel M. Hobbs from 1816 to 1823; Walter W. White from 1823 to 1826; Walton Livermore from 1823 to 1835; Joseph Wiley Patrick from 1816 to —; Lewis Bemis from 1832 to 1856; Lewis Bemis' heirs from 1856 to 1861.

About twenty rods below Powder Mill bridge on the east bank of the Seven-mile river can be seen an excavation where once stood what was known as a five-wheel mill, thirty-six feet square. The machinery including four cylinders, had been purchased at Barre. Mr. Bemis took great pains to have this mill the best that could be built. When completed and the machinery all in place, it ran so smoothly that it was said to have been a delightful sight to see all the ponderous machinery in motion. So much so that it was kept going "to see the wheels go round." The machinery was started one Monday morning and ran until Wednesday night, August 15, 1853, when an explosion took place and the mill was no more. This accident caused Mr. Bemis to feel exceedingly sorrowful. He had set his heart on this mill. His off-repeated expression that he would "build up mills as fast as the Almighty blew them down" was not carried out in this case, for no attempt to build anew was ever made.

At the time the five men were killed, a large bay horse stood hitched to a wagon backed up to the mill ready to take the road. The wagon could not have burned, but no trace of

it, not a splinter was ever found, though diligent search was made. The horse had every hair on his body, including mane and tail, burned off to the hide. When found he lay on a gravel bank nearby, apparently dead, but finally revived enough so with help got onto his feet. Elias Hall wanted to knock him in the head, but an Irishman finally prevailed on Mr. Bemis to give the horse to him. This he did, and by careful treatment in a year's time, became as valuable a work-horse as ever.

Lewis Bemis was an energetic man and besides his owner-



POWDER MILL BRIDGE OVER SEVEN MILE RIVER.

ship of both the lower and upper powder mills in Spencer and one-fourth interest in the Barre powder mills he also caused to be built mills at Savannah, Winconsin, which he put in charge of his son, Lewis. These mills were built under the supervision of Mr. Orin S. Worthington, who was gone a year from his home here, attending to their construction.

In the early days and well along into the fifties, all the kegs used for packing the powder were made in the Podunk district, Brookfield, by Elijah Liberty, Jefferson Moses and Charles Adams and a man by the name of Richardson in the

south part of Brookfield, all coopers by trade. Kegs all were of chestnut, with hoops of alder. The price paid for the kegs was fourteen cents apiece, and Mr. Elijah Adams with the help of two sons could make twenty per day. These were sent for from Spencer and obtained as needed from a barn in which they were kept in stock. Moses Adams also made at his establishment, gallon bottles of wood, butter tubs, meat barrels, cider barrels and hogsheads. The kegs used here, in the last years of powder making, were obtained from Austin Page of Oakham, who also made for Barre. The late Joshua Bemis of Pleasant street, when a boy, lived with his uncle, Lewis Bemis, and to keep him out of mischief evenings, he was kept at work pegging on powder keg hoops to keep them securely in position and also plugging up with pegs the small worm holes found quite often in old chestnut. When powder was sent away all possible empty powder kegs were obtained along the route and returned to be refilled. Many of these were damaged and were repaired by Samuel Adams, also a cooper, who then owned what has lately been known as the Thomas Leonard place.

Where was the powder used? Most everywhere in New England and the provinces. It was used for blasting purposes all along what is now the Boston & Albany R. R., as far as Chester, and was delivered at points along the road as needed. It was used in the building of the Providence & Worcester and Worcester & Nashua railroads. In the saltpetre mines of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, by the Boers in South Africa. Green & Green of Providence, R. I., had four ships engaged in the South African trade. They sent out N. E. rum, powder, old muskets, bandana handkerchiefs and fancy articles for personal use. When powder was to be part of the cargo, three four-horse loads were sent from here at one time containing 240 kegs each and each keg holding twenty-five pounds of powder. Powder was also sold for local use at Providence, R. I., Dedham, Rockport and Quincy, Mass., and at Norwich, Conn., on Cape Cod, Boston and Roxbury. It is also said sporting powder was shipped to France during a time of war in which that nation was then engaged. In order to provide against bad roads, weather and accidents, a quantity of powder was stored in a building in Roxbury, built on piles out in the ocean. The usual time on the road of the four and six teams was from four to six days.

One of the teamsters for Lewis Bemis was J. Edwin Bemis, known better as "Powder Ed." and now living in Spencer. He was then a mere lad and many thought too young to be en-

trusted with so great responsibility. At one time, after he had been away ten days on a projected three days' trip to Dedham, and no tidings, his Uncle Lewis became nervous over the situation and was on the point of sending a team as a tracer. This was on Sunday morning and Mr. Bemis was seen walking nervously back and forth in the yard to his house, where Mrs. Abram Capen now lives. This yard commands a view of upper Main street to its summit, and in this direction his eyes frequently turned, looking hopefully for his long delayed team. At last he saw it coming over the brow of the hill and with quick step went to the barn and provided a man to care for the team as soon as in, for he wanted young Ed. in the house at once to hear the story of his long trip. The commencement of the story was the unloading from his pockets of roll after roll of money. It was evident that prosperity and not adversity had attended him and this was reflected in Mr. Bemis' countenance. The facts were that when the load for Dedham had been delivered, word came that powder was wanted at Quincy. He went to the magazine in Roxbury for it and on account of a high sea, was delayed two days in getting it. Then the quarrymen called for another load, which was supplied, and then he started for home with money in his pockets for three loads, thus making the trip a profitable, as well as an eventful one.

Testing the strength of the powder was a matter of prime importance and each lot was thoroughly tested. A mortar was kept in the shed at the old powder mill Jewelling house and iron balls for the purpose. This mortar was called "Old Hoit"—for what reason is unknown, but it is supposed the name was so bestowed upon it by Englishmen, Hoit being an obsolete English word, meaning to "romp noisily." There was a knoll of land across the road to the north on land now owned by Walter C. Bemis, and on this knoll stood a maple tree, now gone. When powder was the standard strength, it would carry a ball from the house to the tree but whatever the strength indicated by the average distance the balls went, it was so marked on each keg of the lot tested.

The usual powder mill explosion was of so tragic a nature, there was little opportunity for mirth in connection with it, but on one occasion, when no person was injured, a laughable incident occurred. Mr. Bemis was a merchant and always a nicely dressed man, wearing a silk hat on all occasions. In such a suit his hostler had driven him to the scene of an explosion. On arrival Mr. Bemis found one mill standing, but a timber had been blown up against it, the lower end of which

was on fire, and it was clearly only a question of time when this mill would explode also if no steps were taken to prevent it. Mr. Bemis made a quick decision, the fire must be put out, and he would do it. His tile hat was all the article at hand in which to carry water. Off it came and dipped full from the canal. Mr. Bemis started, but when the Irishman discovered his intention he caught hold of his employer's coat tails and tried to hold him back, crying with a loud voice "Mr. Bemis don't go, Mr. Bemis don't go." And the spectators at a good distance away on the hill beheld the novel spectacle of Mr. Bemis striding ahead, with the Irishman at his heels trying to hold him back. Mr. Bemis being the stronger of the two, won out, and succeeded in putting out the fire. The powder industry was carried on untill the breaking out of the Civil war, when the manager for the heirs, Fred A. Bemis, enlisted and went to the war. At this time powder making was carried on with little profit, but it is the opinion of good judges that if the mills had been judiciously run during the war a fortune could have been made. Since then the use of dynamite has superseded the black blasting powder, so that its manufacture is now chiefly a matter of history.

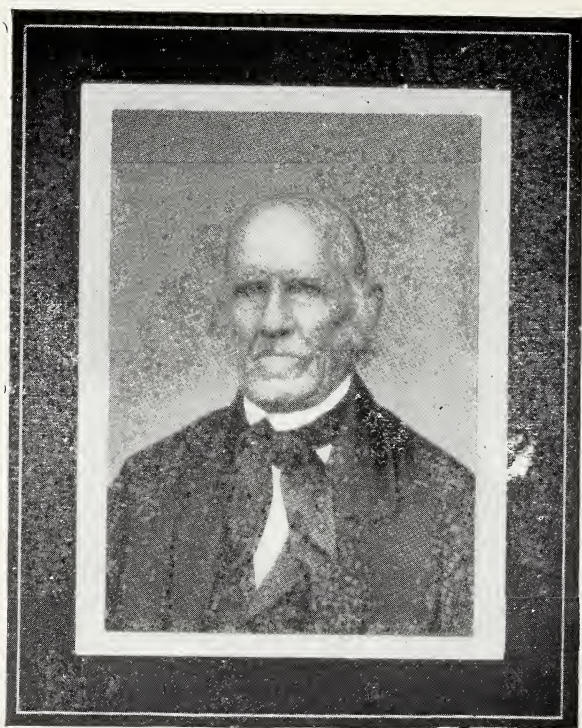
THE HOWLAND OAK

John Howland Jr. was born in Freetown in 1742. In company with his brother-in-law, Job Simmonds, who had married Elizabeth Howland, they came to Spencer in 1769 and camped under the oak shown in cut until they were able to erect dwellings, Howland one where John M. Newton now lives and Simmonds one where Eb. Howe's new house stands. Simmonds did not stay in town but a few years, when the farm became the property of Reuben Bemis. Mrs. Simmonds died in North Brookfield. John Howland was ensign in the Revolution.

Otis Howland, grandson of John Jr., to whom the Howland farm descended through his father, Abner, requested when he sold the place to Joel Howe, that this tree always be preserved as a memorial of his ancestor.



THE HOWLAND OAK ON FARM OF JOHN M. NEWTON



JAMES HOWLAND

Grandson of the original settler, John Howland.

IMPOUNDING CATTLE

The time was within the memory of the living, when a pound in the centre village was deemed essential to good order and the general welfare of the people. Up to twenty-five years ago the town's pound was located near the house of the late Frank B. Watson, upper Main street, and consisted of a space about forty feet square surrounded by a stone wall seven to eight feet high, with a strongly built wooden gateway. Into this enclosure all stray cattle against which complaint had been entered were driven by field drivers, then, as now, annually chosen by the town for that purpose. They were here fed and watered by a keeper, also an officer of the town, and were only released to the owner on the payment of certain fees established by law, or in absence of a claimant, in time sold at auction, the fees paid and balance deposited in the town's treasury for the benefit of the owner, should he later appear. The time, however, came when public sentiment became so strong that most owners of cattle provided secure fences around their pastures and those who did not became tired of paying the penalty for letting their cattle run at large. So the pound ceasing to be needed, except on rare occasions, the property was sold and the place for impounding transferred to the almshouse grounds. The last large lot of cattle impounded at one time occurred about thirty-seven years ago. They belonged to an old citizen living in the lower village, a man of considerable ability and in his day a colonel in the state militia. He had an abundance of this world's goods both for present necessities and probable future needs, and yet having been born in 1783 at a time when extreme frugality was imperative it is no wonder he inherited if not a get-all then a save-all spirit, and that this feeling dominated his whole career. Like many others he failed to see that feeling or impulse should not become a rule for action unless indorsed by the best judgment of the intellect, and so letting his feelings rule, thereby he got himself into trouble. He was a farmer, or had been in his earlier life, owned quite a tract of mowing in the village, a pasture in the rear of Barr's oil works and kept from twelve to fifteen head of cattle. He seldom ex-

pended any money or labor in repairing his pasture fences, which were poor at best and had been from way back. As a consequence his cattle were as often found feeding by the way-side as in the pasture, and seemed to prefer liberty to roam about, rather than restraint where they belonged. They especially liked to feed in such gardens of the village as they could by any means enter, and to these places their visits were generally in the night time. This procedure was not an agreeable one to contemplate from the garden owners' standpoint, but the old gentleman when advised of the destruction caused by his cattle, regarded the information with equanimity. No offer to pay damages was ever considered favorably by him. Nothing but a half-hearted attempt to repair fences was ever undertaken. The slipshod, happy-go-lucky, not-spend-a-cent method, prevailed. His paradise of masterly inactivity he had so fondly and for so long a time indulged himself in, was one day dismantled. He was notified that all his cattle were impounded. The inevitable had at last come. Bending with the weight of years, he sought the field driver, Mr. Joseph C. Grout, then living near the pound and tried to obtain a rebate from the regular fee. His haggling proved of no avail. So reluctantly he paid over some thirteen dollars for his want of attention to the demands of justice and the rights of his neighbors. The lesson was a salutary one. His fences were put in order and ever thereafter, or as long as he lived, his cattle fed in his own pasture.

Another case illustrating the penurious habit and from this, leading to a disregard of a neighbor's rights, happened south of the village some forty or more years ago. A well-to-do farmer living there never or hardly ever repaired his fences, and as a sequel his cattle roamed much of the time in the pasture of a son-in-law, Mr. X., whose farm adjoined. Finding fault with the lax methods of his father-in-law, Mr. Z., proving of no avail, Mr. X. hired a man and with him spent a whole day in repairing the fences of Mr. Z. He then called at the house of the latter, and with much profanity interjected, thus addressed him, "I have put your fences in order at my own expense, and now keep your cattle at home. You are so tight you never spend a cent if you can help it. You sell everything off your farm you can, and what you can't sell you feed to your cattle ; what they won't eat, you give to your hogs, and what they won't eat, you eat yourself. You're a hog of the lowest grade." This was said with shrill voice and a constantly rising inflection. Mr. Z. was a very soft, low spoken man whose habitual habit in reply to assertions was to say, "Yes, yes ; jus' so, jus' so" and that is what he said on this occasion.

SPENCER INDUSTRIES

Manufactures in 1845.

Cotton mills 3 ; spindles 1200 ; cotton consumed 116,000 pounds ; cotton cloth manufactured, sheetings, 15,000 yards ; value \$1.050 ; cotton yarn made and not made into cloth (satinet warps) 44,000 lbs. value \$9,200 ; pelisse wadding made 1250 bales of 360 pieces each, value \$12,000 ; capital \$14,500. Men employed 19, women 12.

Woolen mills 1 ; sets of machinery 1 ; wool consumed 9000 lbs. ; satinet made 8000 yards, value \$4,000 ; capital \$2,000. Men employed 4, women 3.

Scythe manufactories 2 ; scythes made 2040 ; value \$1,530 ; capital \$2,000. Employed 3.

Powder mills 1 ; powder made 132,500 pounds, value \$15,000 ; capital \$3,500 ; employed 4.

Chair and cabinet ware manufactories 1 ; chairs made 1000, value of chairs and other furniture made \$2,700.

Tanneries 1 ; hides tanned 2000, value of leather tanned and curried \$4,500 ; capital \$3,500 ; employed 5.

Boots made 64,850 pairs, value \$93,100. Men employed 126, women 41.

Palm leaf hats made 7007, value \$1,752. Women employed 68.

Bricks made 60,000, value \$300. Employed 2.

Lumber prepared 287,000 ft., value \$3,135. Employed 31 ; fire wood prepared 2140 cords, value \$5,700. Employed 24.

Sheep 468, value \$1,872 ; wool produced 1872 lbs. ; value \$700.

Horses 237, value \$9,480 ; neat cattle 1577, value \$31,858 ; swine 240, value \$1,440.

Indian corn or maize raised 9100 bu., value \$6,725 ; rye 658 bu., value \$526 ; barley 1823 bu., value \$1,050 ; oats 9715 bu., value \$3,571 ; potatoes 15,460 bu., value \$5,411 ; other esculent vegetables 2450 bu., value \$250 ; hay 2662 tons, value \$22,314.

Fruit raised 13,700 bu. ; value \$1,370 ; butter 34,160 lbs. ; value \$4,783 ; cheese 58,500 lbs. ; value \$2,925 ; honey 335 lbs. ; value \$67.

Value of whip handles made \$118. Value of garments made \$16,000. Employed 39. Wire mills 2 ; wire drawn 32,000 lbs. ; value \$8,000, capital \$3,000. Employed 6.

Manufactures in 1855.

Cotton mills 1, not running.

Woolen mills 3 ; sets of machinery $3\frac{1}{2}$; satinet made 112,000 yards ; value of satinet \$336,000 ; capital \$15,000. Men employed 20, women 12.

Powder mills 1 ; powder made 100,000 lbs. ; value \$12,500 ; capital \$3,000. Employed 4.

Chair and cabinet manufactories 2 ; value of chairs and cabinet ware \$4,000 ; capital \$1,500. Employed 4.

Currying establishments 2 ; value of leather curried \$58,800 ; capital \$5,000. Employed 10.

Boots of all kinds made 205,102 pairs ; value of boots \$410,204. Men employed 300 ; women 20.

Lumber prepared for market 604,000 ft. ; value \$8,068. Employed 20.

Indian corn 264 acres, $31\frac{1}{2}$ bu. per acre ; value \$8,245 ; rye 37 acres, $13\frac{1}{4}$ bu. per acre ; value \$611 ; barley 50 acres, 19 bu. per acre, value \$959.

Manufactures in 1865.

Woolen mills 3 ; sets machinery 4 ; pounds of scoured wool consumed 110,000 ; value of the stock used \$150,000. Yards of cassimere made 250,000, value \$215,000. Yards of satinet made 172,000, value \$292,000 ; capital \$58,000. Men employed 38, women 26.

Wire manufactories 2, value of stock used \$106,000 ; tons of wire made 382, value \$182,700 ; capital \$61,000. Employed 59.

Currying establishments 2, value of stock used \$17,000 ; hides curried 3200 ; value of leather curried \$19,000 ; capital \$4,500. Employed 5.

Boots of all kinds made 324,943 ; value of stock used \$575,000 ; value of boots made 835,000 ; capital \$276,000. Men employed 589, women 41.

Ox muzzles made 1700, value \$675 ; capital \$100. Men employed 1.

Coffins and burial cases of all kinds one manufactory ; value of stock used \$100 ; coffins made 45, value \$200 ; capital \$100. Men employed 1.

Box making establishments 2 ; value of stock used \$11,250 ; value of wooden boxes made \$20,000 ; capital \$3,500. Men employed 8.

Saw mills 5 ; feet of lumber prepared for market 1,150,000 ; value \$17,900 ; shingles prepared for market 200,000 ; value \$600 ; capital \$4,000. Men employed 5.

Indian corn 219 acres, 5432 bu., value \$8,143.

Rye 3 acres, 24 bu., value \$48.

Barley 22 acres, 380 bu., value \$570.

INDIANS AND NEGROES

Neither of the above races have to any appreciable extent become identified with Spencer since the advent of the white man. James Draper, under the head of slavery, says there were several negroes here in the early days that were held in a state of peonage, three by Rev. Mr. Eaton, two by John Sumner and one each by John Elliot, John White, Isaac Jenks, Robert Luther and Rev. Mr. Pope. There were enough at this time so that two pews were provided for them at the Congregational church, both in the gallery—one pew on a side, so as to divide the sexes. The town records of this period contain a letter from Rev. Joseph Pope which illustrates one of the usages of the time.

To the Selectmen of Spencer.

Gentlemen : I hereby acquaint you in a formal manner that a certain mulatto girl called Naomi Cady whom I have had in my family in the state and capacity of a minor for a number of years has arrived at the age of twenty-one years on the second day of this instant and is capable of acquiring a legal right of habitation in this town if measures be not taken to prevent it.

From your humble servant,

JOSEPH POPE.

Spencer, July 5, 1793.

In more modern times there were two families of negroes who established themselves in the south part of Spencer, where they raised families, were industrious after their fashion, and became a part of the body politic. The heads of the families in these cases were Manly Ransom and Thomas Humphrey. Ransom came to town from Brookfield when a young man and secured work farming. He was a reliable hand and showed at that time a disposition to save money and get ahead in the world. He married Nancy Henry of Ashford, Conn., and after a time Ransom obtained permission to clear half an acre of land near Cranberry Meadow pond dam or rather about one-fourth of a mile to the northeast of the dam. It was all woods and sprout land then as now in this section, but Ransom got

his half acre under cultivation, dug a cellar, still to be seen, and built thereon a rude cabin as shown in cut. Here quite a number of children were born, no one knows how many, for the town in those days did not pay much attention to recording births, marriages or deaths of negroes. but there was quite a family—too many for the little cabin they occupied. As age crept on the Ransoms became lovers of strong drink and this in the end was the cause of their downfall and breaking up of the Ransom family. The railroad through Spencer ran along within a few minutes walk of the Ransom cabin and those in control of the local freight trains found it convenient to



HUT OF MANLY RANSOM, A NEGRO, NEAR CRANBERRY MEADOW.

The only man ever convicted of murder in Spencer to date, 1903.

stop off for a few minutes, occasionally, and visit the Ransom cabin, always taking along a bottle of whiskey. This made trouble, for Ransom was not in favor of the plan and remonstrated against it to no avail. He however, seemed powerless in the matter and at the close of a day in 1850 came home drunk and found her in the same condition. Under the influence of liquor both were ugly, though at other times of quite a peaceful disposition. But now words came to blows, then the use of a knife and then and there Manly Ransom murdered his wife, it being the only actually known murder in the town of Spencer since its settlement in 1721 up to that time, and up to the present time also. It is thought but few towns of the

size of Spencer can show such a record. Mrs. Ransom was buried in a private cemetery near Cranberry Meadow pond, just over the line in Charlton, now owned by Mrs. Maria L. Sibley of Charlton Depot. Owing to a morbid desire on the part of the public, it is said the funeral was one of the most largely attended of any in the history of the town. The town offered a reward of \$50 for the apprehension of Ransom and Luther Hill, who was deputy sheriff at the time, traced his man and secured him while at work in a field at Northampton. On trial he pleaded guilty of manslaughter and was sentenced to state prison. Here he was such an obedient prisoner and with the general feeling that his wife was the real cause of the trouble, the Governor pardoned Ransom at the end of three years. He returned to Spencer, built him a small cabin near South Spencer, where he lived by himself, until his death, working out as a farm hand as opportunity offered. Coming home from Worcester on foot by way of the railroad track a passing train struck and killed him. He always called himself "Manly Ransom, black and handsome" and this was sort of a nursery rhyme for children in that section of the town. And so with the Ransom children, all scattered, the history of the family in Spencer ends.

The other negro family to attain recognition in town was the Humphreys and these were so mixed up with the Dudley Indians, a vanishing contingent of the ancient Nipmucs who once occupied this territory, that it was hard telling who was who, but it was easy enough to tell the nativity of Thomas Humphrey, the pioneer and progenitor of all the Humphreys in the black line that ever inhabited Spencer. Thomas Humphrey was a full blooded African, black as the ace of spades, or even more so, according to tradition, who somehow had first made his way from his native land to England and then to this country. He was a soldier in the revolution but for some unknown reason was not pensioned. Thomas Humphrey found a good looking squaw in Dudley, by the name of Esther Peginy and she had as a special endowment two sets of double teeth all around. They married and settled in Spencer, where, no one knows ; but the father was here long enough to beget quite a number of children, William, Joseph, Aaron, Luke, Cyrus and Annie, possibly others, and then probably died, as his name is mentioned no further along in the history. His wife, or "Old Aunt Easter" as she used to call herself and was so called by others, was a woman of some dominant traits of character. Her surname is met with in early records, showing that she belonged to one of the first families of the realm,



MRS. MARY E. WHITE AND WILLIAM WHITE, HER HUSBAND.
He was a soldier during the Civil War.

but it appears that every scribe wrote the name differently. The Dudley records contain the following :

"January 30, 1734. The Congregational church society of Dudley voted to build a meeting house on Joshua Pegan's old field if the land could be obtained." On the 27 'Mei' same year the Indians of Dudley hill offered four acres of this farm to the society for their church provided convenient seats for the Indians are allowed. These were the "praying Indians," doubtless converted under the labors of John Elliott.

The grandparents of Esther Humphrey were Samuel Pagon, Jr., and Sarah Pagon, Indians, and were married in Dudley July 21, 1768. How many children were born to Thomas Humphrey is not known but there were William, Joseph, Aaron, Luke, Cyrus and Annie. They lived wherever they could find a hut large enough to cover them. Huts left by the workmen, who built the railroad ; woodchoppers' abandoned cabins and so they moved around. The last cabin to be occupied and which served as a house for a good many years was a board building built for lumbermen by Jonas and Alpha Bemis when cutting off a woodlot near Howe's mills. By this time Aunt Esther had got to be quite an old woman ; husband dead, children grown up and mostly gone away from home, so she spent day after day visiting her white friends, and the whites were all friendly, for Aunt Esther was of a sunny disposition, a versatile talker, knew everybody, had an excellent memory and was an entertaining visitor. One of the places where she was always welcome was at the house of James Howland on the Brookfield road. Here she always was regaled with a quart of hard cider. This beverage was one extremely satisfactory to her taste and she would drink immoderately whenever she had the chance. To her one quart was simply a good drink and nothing more. One day she called on the Howlands and as usual Mr. Howland went down cellar and soon returned with his usual supply of cider which was set before her. She needed no second invitation to drink, glass after glass following each other down into her capacious stomach with many a loud peculiar smack of her lips. She was well intoxicated when she came but the additional quart of hard cider was more than brain could stand and maintain its equilibrium. She called for more cider. "You have had too much already," said Mr. Howland. Lifting up her hand and extending the index finger towards her host she said : "Mr. Howland, a little too much cider ain't quite enough for old Aunt Easter." She didn't get any more however, at that time. Her host, although a cider drinker, was a temperate man and used to relate this story with evident pleasure.

It is doubtful if she ever slept in a bed. At her home certainly she had none, and she always refused such accommodations wherever she went. The hard kitchen floor was good enough for her and there she slept in true Indian style. She died in her cabin, October 12, 1860. Everbody thought she was a centenarian and the bell at the Center tolled one hundred times, but this was an error, for her grand-parents were married only ninety-eight years prior to her death. As showing the esteem in which she was held her funeral was largely attended by the inhabitants of the town. Such men as Hiram and Frank Howe were bearers. Rev. William J. Hambleton, the M. E. minister, conducted the services, and she was buried in the private cemetery, noted above, now owned by Maria L. Sibley. Her son, William Humphrey, was now the leading representative of the family. He lived about in various places, but for a long time on Pine Island, near Spencer Depot (described in Vol. 1). Here he gained a livelihood making baskets and barn brooms from yellow birch. But they all died and went the way of the earth, with hardly a trace left behind to show they once lived. There is, however, one descendant of Mrs. Humphrey, Mary E. White of North Spencer, whose portrait is herewith given, but the strong qualities of the Indian are dominant in both her features and character. She was the last survivor or representative in this vicinity of the Indian tribe that possessed the land. Her maiden name was Mary E. Humphrey. In 1887 the ancient Indian reservation of land for the Dudley Indians at Dudley, was sold by order of the probate court and from this sale and the proceeds were equally divided among the remnants of the tribe. This amounted to \$61.62, and this sum was paid to Mary E. White of this town and all other descendants of the Pegan tribe who were twenty-one and living July 23, 1869.

For a great many years one of the above tribe of Indians was a familiar figure in Spencer. His name was Levi Taha, but he called himself and was known as Lambscott. He was a good farm hand and worked much of the time for Joseph Garfield. He represented himself to be a Spaniard and indeed resembled men of that nativity, but when he got old and ready to die he went to Webster among his own people about 1874. He disregarded sidewalks and whenever seen in the village was on foot and in the middle of the road.

Joseph Noka, a nearly full-blooded Indian of the ancient Narragansett tribe, worked under the direction of the writer about a year in 1881. He was a stone-cutter by trade and cut most of the Ashler work in the wall in front of and to the east

of the residence of Mr. C. N. Prouty. He remembered hearing his grand-mother Noka conversing in the tribal tongue.

The residence of most of the negroes who have been in Spencer for the last fifty years, has been on the whole quite transitory. William H. Young, a young negro, was living here in 1863, was drafted, went into service and made a good soldier. After the war he returned and lived here or in Brookfield until his death in 1900. He was buried at East Brookfield. It used to amuse people when showing them scars on his back received when a slave to hear him say, "dose scars will surely carry me to my grave."

THE WASHINGTON MOVEMENT

The Washingtonian temperance movement commenced in 1826, but its influence in stirring the people of Spencer to united action did not culminate until 1841*, when a society was organized, which seems to have been the most popular temperance association ever established in Spencer. During its life of eleven years its membership comprised nearly five hundred people, including many of the leading men of the town.

Dr. Charles Jewett, one of the pioneer temperance workers, and perhaps chief apostle in New England, in lecturing and organizing societies, says of the conditions prevailing in 1826: "More than one-tenth of our male population who had passed the age of thirty were occasional if not habitual drunkards, and yet on all public occasions intoxicating liquors, the cause of all this mischief, were present. At auctions, military trainings and elections, at the raising of houses and barns or bridges, at public celebrations, on New Years days, annual Thanksgivings, at funerals, and even the ordination of ministers the presence of intoxicating liquors was deemed indispensable. They were relied upon to sustain the farmer during the severe labors of haying and harvest and the best men then living

*There had been temperance meetings held in town prior to this date. How many and under what circumstances is not known, but there were two held on the same day between the years 1833-39 while Rev. Gilman Noyes, pastor of the Universalist church, was stationed here, which were addressed by Father Taylor, a M. E. preacher known the world over as the pastor of Seamen's Bethel, Boston. The afternoon meeting was at the Universalist church and Reverends Taylor, Packard of the Congregational church, and Noyes, all sat in the pulpit. This was appropriate for men all laboring in the meeting for one particular end. But a change appeared in the evening program. The three reverend gentlemen marched up an aisle of the Congregational church, Rev. Mr. Packard leading, followed by Rev. Mr. Noyes, Father Taylor bringing up the rear. When opposite his church pew, the Congregational pastor unbuttoned the pew door, ushered Rev. Mr. Noyes in and buttoned him in. He probably thought it would never do to have a Universalist minister sit in his pulpit. Such an innovation, even for advocating temperance, could not be entertained. Father Taylor made a mental note of this procedure and as he came down out of the pulpit with the church pastor and Rev. Mr. Noyes was being let out of the pew, made these remarks to the latter and in hearing of Mr. Packard: "My dear sir, I should be delighted to have you come to some of our services whenever you are in Boston and one thing I can assure you in advance, you will find no doors or buttons on our pews; nor none on my pulpit either. You will be cordially welcomed to it and to a seat at my side."

Mr. Packard was a man, who, if now living, would be called a strict constructionist. While all agree as to his moral worth most all agree that his mind was so constructed that it seemed impossible for him to view questions of religion or morals except in a dogmatic way.

drank them freely and many such men were engaged in the traffic." Many of the people of Spencer were at last awakened to the evils of intemperance and proceeded to take decided measures in order to prevent the sale and immoderate use of liquors as far as possible. The records now will largely be followed.

At a meeting of the friends of temperance assembled in the town hall on Monday evening, August 9th, 1841, Rev. Levi Packard was chosen chairman and the following preamble was unanimously adopted:

"Preamble and Constitution of the Washington Temperance Society of Spencer.

"We whose names are hereunto annexed, believing that the use of intoxicating liquor, as a beverage, is not only needless but hurtful to the social, civil and religious interests of men—that it tends to form intemperate habits, and that while it is continued the evils of intemperance will never be done away, do, therefore agree that we will not use it, nor traffic in it—that we will not provide it as an article of entertainment, or for persons in our employment and that in all suitable ways we will discountenance the use of it throughout the community and for that purpose do form ourselves into a society and adopt the following Constitution:

"Article 1st. This Society shall be called The Washington Temperance Society of Spencer.

"Art. 2nd. The officers shall be a President and Vice President, a corresponding and recording Secretary and a Treasurer, and a committee of five who with the Officers named above shall constitute a Board of Managers.

"Art. 3rd. The officers shall be chosen by ballot at the annual meeting of the Society, each Officer retaining his office until another be chosen in his place.

"Art. 4th. The annual meetings shall be held some time in the month of November of each year, at which meetings the Constitution may be altered or amended by a vote of a majority then present.

"Art. 5th. It shall be the duty of the members of the Society by a kind and friendly intercourse, to help each other in sustaining the pledge inviolate.

"Art. 6th. Any person may become a member of the Society by signing the pledge, and any one may retire from the Society at any time, when he shall signify to the Recording Secretary a wish to that effect in writing and the name of any

one who has violated his pledge and cannot be induced to return to it, may be erased by a majority vote at a regular meeting of the Society."

This constitution did duty until 1850, when a new one was adopted, the principal changes being the charge of an entrance fee to men and the payment of small annual dues.

The officers elected at the first meeting were as follows: James Draper Esq., president; Alonzo Temple, vice president; Jeremiah Grout, corresponding secretary; George H. Livermore, recording secretary; Silas Eldridge, treasurer; William Henshaw, Walter Sibley, Bloomfield Green, Charles Newcomb, and Jabez Green, committee of five.

At an adjourned meeting of the Washington Temperance Society held August 29th, 1841, the following business was transacted:

"The Recording Secretary being absent Levi Packard was chosen Secretary Protem. It was voted to choose a committee to circulate the pledge in the several school wards in town. Joel Grout was chosen to circulate it in Wards Nos. 1 and 2, James Draper in Ward No. 3, Joseph W. Morse in Ward No. 4, Plummer Prouty in Wards Nos. 5 and 6, Harvey Bush in Wards Nos. 7 and 8, and Alonzo Temple in Wards 9 and 10. It was voted to choose a committee of two to inquire if anything can be done to change the character of the taverns. James Draper and Alonzo Temple were chosen for that committee.

"LEVI PACKARD, Sec. Protem."

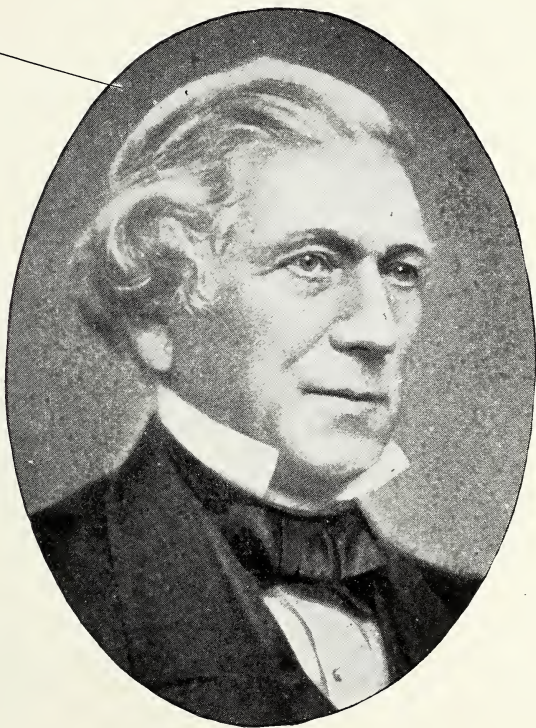
At a meeting of the Washington Temperance Society held in the town hall, September 20th, the following question was discussed: "If alcohol is useful as a medicine, ought not the physicians who prescribe it to deal it out as they do other medicine?" After the debate the following resolution was passed by a vote of the society, "Whereas it is often thought advisable to use distilled liquor as a medicine, and whereas the acquisition of the same for that purpose is often attended with many unhappy consequences, therefore resolved: That we as a body do most earnestly recommend to our practicing physicians to furnish and administer it as other medicine when necessary."

Annual meeting for the choice of officers agreeable to the Constitution, was appointed November 22, 1842, but in consequence of the rain was adjourned to November 25th, of the same month.

At an adjourned meeting of the Washington Temperance Society held at the town hall, November 25th, the following officers were chosen by ballot and other business transacted as

follows: Lewis Bemis, president; Silas Eldredge, vice president; Jeremiah Grout, secretary; Walter L. Sibley, treasurer; Nathaniel Eldredge, Samuel L. Pillsbury, Martin Hersey, Dexter Bullard and W. L. Powers, prudential committee.

"Voted to choose a committee of one in each of the school wards in town, whose duty it shall be to circulate the temperance pledge for subscribers. Made choice of Ruel Jones in Ward No. 1, Joel Grout in Ward No. 2, Jabez Green in Ward



JEREMIAH GROUT

No. 3, Edward Prouty in Ward No. 4, Plummer Prouty in Ward No. 6, Charles Newcomb in Ward No. 7, Harvey Bush in Ward No. 8, William Sampson in Ward No. 9 and Doctor Jonas Guilford in Ward No. 10.

"Voted that the Secretary provide the ward committees with temperance pledges.

"Voted to choose a committee of three to procure wood and light for the town hall during the coming winter. Made

choice of Jabez Green, Alonzo Temple and Joel Grout, a committee.

"Voted that the Rev. Mr. Page procure a lecturer of his own order to give a lecture to the temperance society of Spencer, in the town hall on Monday evening, December 6th, being the first Monday of December next.

"Voted to adjourn this meeting to the first Monday of December next at 6 o'clock P. M.

"JEREMIAH GROUT," Secy.

"December 6th, 1841. Agreeable to an adjournment the temperance society met this evening, and the following services were performed and other business transacted: 1st, Temperance Ode by the choir; 2nd, Prayer by Rev. Mr. Page; 3rd, Temperance Ode by the choir; 4th, Lecture by Rev. Mr. Landers of Worcester. After which the Rev. Mr. Packard proposed that the Society tender their thanks to the Rev. Mr. Landers for his spirited and interesting address this evening, to which the Society unanimously agreed by vote.

"Voted that the Rev. Mr. Packard procure a lecturer to deliver an address on temperance in the town hall in two weeks from this evening. The temperance pledge was then produced to which fifteen subscribed their names.

"Benediction by Rev. Mr. Landers.

"JEREMIAH GROUT, Clerk."

"December 14th, 1841. Nathan Crosby Esq., agent for the Massachusetts Temperance Union, addressed the cold water army in the afternoon, and the citizens generally in the evening. After which fourteen persons became members and donors of the Massachusetts Temperance Union.

"JEREMIAH GROUT, Clerk."

"December 20th, 1841. The temperance society of Spencer met this evening, agreeable to an appointment and services were performed as follows: 1st, Temperance Ode by the choir; 2nd, Prayer by Rev. Mr. Trask of Warren; 3rd, Temperance Ode by the choir; 4th, Lecture by Rev. Mr. Trask. Hon. James Draper then moved that the Society return their thanks to the Rev. Mr. Trask for the able address delivered this evening, to which the Society agreed by vote. Voted to adjourn this meeting for two weeks from this evening, for free discussion, as no lecturer is expected.

"JEREMIAH GROUT, Clerk."

"January 3, 1842. Agreeable to the adjournment a very few members of the Society met, but no business of importance was done and the meeting was dissolved.

"January 18, 1842. The Rev. Mr. Austin of Sturbridge then delivered an interesting and instructive lecture to the temperance society of this town.

"J. GROUT, Clerk."

"January 9, 1843. The Washington Temperance Society then met at the town hall in Spencer, and was called to order



"SQUIRE" DRAPER

by the president, Lewis Bemis, and the following business transacted:

"1st. Voted that this be our annual meeting for the choice of officers.

"2nd. Made choice of the following officers by ballot, viz: William Pope Esq., president; Alonzo Temple, Joseph W. Morse, vice presidents; Jeremiah Grout, secretary and treasurer.

“3rd. The following gentlemen were chosen by nomination as a prudential committee, viz: Jabez Green, Silas Eldredge, George H. Livermore, Harvey Bush, and Dexter Bullard.

“4th. Voted to open a subscription in this book for the purpose of procuring money to defray the expenses of said society.

“The question then arose: ‘Is it a violation of the pledge for any member to make and sell currant wine for sickness or for the communion tables.’ The question was ably discussed by Rev. Mr. Packard, Hon. James Draper and others in the negative, and as there was no one who advocated the affirmative it was settled in the negative without a vote.

“5th. Voted that the President be directed to give the Rev. Mr. Packard an invitation to deliver a temperance lecture at this place in two weeks from this evening.

“6th. Voted to adjourn this meeting for two weeks at 6 o’clock in the evening at this place.

“JEREMIAH GROUT, Clerk.”

“January 23, 1843. Agreeable to an adjournment the temperance society met this evening and the following were the doings of the meeting: 1st. Prayer by Rev. Mr. Packard; 2nd, Singing by the choir; 3rd, Lecture by Rev. Mr. Packard; 4th, Singing by the choir; 5th. Voted that the officers of the society give the Rev. Mr. Merrell an invitation to give a temperance lecture in two weeks from this evening.

“6th. Voted to adjourn this meeting two weeks.

“JEREMIAH GROUT, Clerk.”

“1843, February 7. In consequence of the ill health of the Rev. Mr. Merrell the meeting was deferred.

“1843, February 20. The temperance society then met and listened to a very able address from the Rev. Mr. Merrill, after which the society voted to choose a committee of one in each school ward in town to circulate the pledge, but upon more deliberate consultation it was thought by the society that by choosing such committees that the work would not be done and the following gentlemen volunteered their services, viz: Ward 3, James Draper Esq.; 4, Jeremiah Watson; 5, Plummer Prouty; 7, William G. Muzzy; 8, Luther J. Clapp; 9, Richard Mills; 10, William Bemis. 2nd.

“Voted that the committee report their doings at our next meeting.

“Voted that our next meeting be at this place (the town hall) on the first day of ~~March~~ next.

"Voted to choose a committee of five for to make arrangements for the cold water army on that day. Made choice of James Draper, Nathaniel Eldredge, Alonzo Temple, Richard Mills and Aaron Watson.

"Voted to adjourn the meeting to the first day of March next.

"JEREMIAH GROUT, Clerk."

"1843, March 1st. At one o'clock P. M., the cold water army then met at the town hall, where the meeting was opened by prayer by the Rev. Mr. Packard, after which singing by the juvenile choir, declamations and dialogues by the boys and girls, addresses by Mr. Packard, Rev. Mr. Merrill senior, Hon. James Draper, and others, interspersed with excellent music by the North Spencer brass band, all of which was performed with so much apparent interest, that gave good evidence that all present made all the effort to promote the cause of temperance in their power, and that it was a profitable and happy meeting.

"At 6 o'clock P. M., the society met at the same place to hear the report of the committee, who volunteered to circulate the pledge and the following is their report and the addition to the society since the last meeting:

"In seven of the school wards in town the committee returned 202 names over the age of fifteen who had pledged themselves to abstain from all intoxicating drinks. After hearing a number of interesting addresses, the meeting was dissolved.

"JEREMIAH GROUT, Clerk."

"April, 1843. The temperance society then met at the vestry to hear a temperance lecture from a Mr. Newton of Worcester, a reformed man, which was a very respectable address, and for his services the society contributed to him the sum of two dollars and eighty-eight cents.

"JEREMIAH GROUT, Clerk."

"May, 1843. The temperance society then met at the vestry to take into consideration the doings of the selectmen* in depriving the temperance society of the town hall, their former place of holding their meetings and voted that the officers of the society address a communication to the selectmen upon the subject.

"Voted that a committee of three be chosen to consult with the retailers of ardent spirits in town, and to prevail upon them if possible to peaceably abandon the traffic. Made choice of Richard Mills, Joseph W. Morse and Amos Kitteridge.

*Selectmen for 1843 were Wm. Baldwin, John N. Prouty, Thomas B. Clark, Joshua Prouty, Russell Sibley.

"After some spirited remarks upon this traffic and the doings of the selectmen, the meeting was dissolved.

"JEREMIAH GROUT, Clerk."

"May 22, 1843. The temperance society then met at the vestry to hear the reports of the officers of the society in relation to a communication by them transmitted to the selectmen, concerning the shutting of the town hall from the society, but as no answer had been received, no report could be made by the officers.

"Also to hear a report of the committee, chosen to consult the retailers of spirituous liquors in town. Their consultations, as their report says, had but little or no effect, as the retailer in North Spencer (Jonas Wilson), had previous to their interview cleaned all the spirit from his store and bar and concluded to sell no more, and others who were in the traffic, could not be prevailed upon to stop peaceably, but said they would continue to sell, disregarding and trampling upon the laws of our state.

"After discussing the subject, what would be the most practicable means to stop the traffic, it was passed over by another article being brought up, viz: Who can we obtain for a lecturer at our next meeting? This article was settled by a vote, that the officers of the society procure one.

"The violation of the pledge was then brought up and individuals implicated, or rather charged with breaking it. It was reported that Dr. Aaron Green was the man who, the very next day after signing the pledge, did, at the public house in the lower village, drink intoxicating liquors, which he, only twenty hours previous had promised and pledged himself that, from which he would entirely abstain. Voted to choose a committee of three to ascertain the truth of the above charge. Made choice of Alonzo Temple, Richard Mills and Jeremiah Grout.

"Voted to adjourn this meeting two weeks from this evening at fifteen minutes before eight o'clock at this place, precisely.

"JEREMIAH GROUT, Clerk."

"June 5, 1843. The committee who was appointed to ascertain the truth of the report in regard to the violation of the pledge by Dr. Aaron Green reported that there was sufficient evidence that he was guilty of the charge made against him in three different towns; whereupon the society voted, that the name of Aaron Green be erased from the pledge, and be considered no longer a member of this society.

"An answer from the selectmen, to the president and secretary of this society in relation to the use of the town hall, was then read, and voted to place it upon file, for the benefit of posterity*.

"Voted to choose a committee of three to consult with the physicians and others in town in regard to the propriety of some persons being licensed in town to sell ardent spirit for medical purposes. Made choice of Lewis Bemis, Jeremiah Grout and Alonzo Temple.

"Voted to adjourn this meeting one week from this evening at fifteen minutes before 8 o'clock precisely at this place.

"JEREMIAH GROUT, Clerk."

"At an adjourned meeting June 12, 1843, after the doings of the last meeting were read, it was voted that the secretary of the society should draw black lines around the name of Dr. Aaron Green* instead of erasing it as was voted at the last meeting.

"The committee chosen at the last meeting, to consult the physicians and others in town, in relation to some persons being licensed to sell ardent spirits, reported that Doctors Guilford and Blair would without doubt consent to be licensed, and the following committee was chosen to petition the county commissioners to license them, viz: James Draper, Alonzo Temple, Lewis Bemis, J. W. Morse, and Jeremiah Grout. Adjourned."

"January 9th, 1844.* Agreeable to an adjournment the

*Dr. Aaron Green was a man of large frame and commanding appearance. He lived while in Spencer in the upstairs tenement of the Selb, Richards house on Pleasant street, near the present Massasoit Hotel. One fall he was very sick with typhoid fever and not expected to recover. In fact he had given up his case as hopeless and the night came when he thought he must die. This night Braman F. Sibley and Willard Rice, Jr., were the watchers and after midnight both fell asleep. The doctor observing this, thought once before he died he would have cold water enough to quench his raging thirst, quietly arose and made his way to running water in the kitchen and drank his fill. What he had done was soon discovered by the watchers and they got him back to bed in time to prevent a chill. They were very much alarmed, however, and agreed with each other that the story should never be told, but when morning came and the doctor seemed well on the road to health and in a few days was able to be about, the story was divulged as one bordering on the miraculous. Dr. Green was a slave to the drink habit and because of this he did not obtain a lucrative practice. He was in Spencer only two years when he purchased a farm in Brookfield, where he lived until his death about 1866. He had three sons, each of whom died of typhoid fever when eighteen years of age and are buried side by side at Brookfield.

*Evidently lost. No doubt it would be interesting reading.

*The agitation of the liquor question had by this time become so general that a clan of men arose who were called extremists by some and temperance cranks by others and while they had a perfect right to their views their extreme ideas were not generally accepted. Luther Hill used to relate a story of these times when he was a stripling, and on his way home from Boston with a four-horse load of merchandise for his father's store at Hillsville. It was late one evening when as he came up Mt. Pleasant, Leicester, he reached a place in the road where sand and road wash had accumulated until it was quite deep. Here the wheels

temperance society met. It being stormy there were but few present. The Rev. Levi Packard and the Hon. James Draper with others made some very spirited remarks upon the subject of temperance in this town. It was moved to choose a committee to consult with Eleazer B. Draper upon the traffic in ardent spirits in this town and to prevail on him if possible to abandon the traffic. The motion was withdrawn and the following gentlemen volunteered their services, viz. James Draper Esq., Rev. Levi Packard, William Pope Esq., Alonzo Temple and Jeremiah Grout. The meeting was then adjourned.

“DEXTER BEMIS. Clerk.”

“February 5th, 1844. Agreeable to an adjournment the temperance society met this evening, February 5th, and the following were the doings of the meeting: 1st, Singing by the choir; 2nd, Prayer by Rev. Mr. Packard; 3rd, Lecture by Mr. Ruel Jones*, which was a very able and interesting address. A committee was then chosen to consider the expediency of celebrating the birth of Washington on the 22nd of February next. Made choice of James Draper Esq., Lewis Bemis, William Henshaw, Alonzo Temple, Jeremiah Grout, Amos Kitttridge and Harvey Bush.

“Voted that the committee act as a committee of arrangements if a celebration is concluded upon.

“Voted to adjourn without date.

“GEORGE H. LIVERMORE, Sect. Protem.

“February 22, 1844. At two o’clock P. M. the cold water army then met at the town hall, where the meeting was opened by prayer by the Rev. Mr. Packard, after which declamations and dialogues by the girls and boys, addresses by the Rev. Mr. Packard, Rev. Mr. Shepherd and others, interspersed with excellent music by the Spencer brass band, all of which was highly interesting and profitable to the temperance society in this town.

sank and his horses were unable to pull the load. He went to Leicester village for help and found a man having a yoke of oxen and a pair of horses. He engaged the man to help him up the hill. When they arrived at the scene, the man saw a hoghead of New England rum aboard and said “Young man my teams won’t be allowed to draw that stuff an inch.” “All right,” said Hill, well nettled. “I guess I can get along if they don’t.” And being resourceful worked about an hour scraping the sand away in front of each wheel and down to hard pan. Then the horses, having had a good rest, were enabled to move the load and Hill went on his way rejoicing.

*Mr. Jones presumably delivered this same address one evening at the old Universalist church, Podunk, before a good audience. When an invitation was extended to those who had thus far failed to pledge themselves to temperance and were asked to sign the pledge quite a large number of young, drinking men came forward and signed the paper amid great applause, but it was soon discovered that none of them had signed their real names.

"At half past six o'clock P. M., the society met at the same place to hear an address from the Rev. Mr. Shepherd and remarks from the Rev. Mr. Packard and others, after which singing by juvenile choir with excellent music from the Spencer brass band, all of which made it an interesting and happy meeting to all present.

"The meeting was then dissolved.

"DEXTER BEMIS, Clerk."

"March 20th, 1845. This society met at the town hall according to adjournment; president in the chair (Rev. James Shepherd). Meeting favored with prayer by Rev. L. Packard. Minutes of last meeting read and accepted, and for nearly two hours the audience (though rather thin) listened to the discussion of the following question (by some half dozen gentlemen): 'Is it right, or consistent, for temperance people, to give their trade or custom, to those who deal in ardent spirit?' But a very little opposition to this question. Voted to adjourn to the first Monday in April at 7 o'clock P. M.

"J. W. MOISE, Sec."

"Tuesday Eve., February 24th, 1846.* This society met at the town hall to celebrate the birth of General Washington (the 22nd of February coming on Sunday), the 24th was the time appointed to celebrate the birth of Washington through the Union.

"The society was called to order by the president, Captain Jeremiah Grout. Order of exercises as follows: 1st, Music by the North Spencer Brass Band; 2nd, Prayer by Rev. Mr. Bates; 3rd, Music by the Band; 4th, Address by Rev. Mr. Packard; 5th, Music; 6th, Address by Rev. Mr. Bates; 7th, Music; 8th, Remarks by James Draper Esq., Dr. E. C. Dyer, Rev. Mr. Bates and a number of other gentlemen.

"Voted to take up a collection from the assembly, for the

*April 25, 1846, a general temperance meeting had been planned for Spencer in the afternoon with Dr. Charles Jewett for speaker, but the most disastrous fire that, up to that time, had ever visited Spencer, took place in the lower village, commencing at the noon hour. The dwelling house and barn of David Gates and a large building containing a carpenter, wheelwright and blacksmith shop, and a tannery of Samuel Barnes were totally destroyed. These buildings stood along on the main road near the present Bacon factory in point of location. All business was at a standstill. Everybody was at the fire either to help the bucket engine along, or else to stand around and look on. Temperance meeting was forgotten in the excitement of the hour, but Dr. Jewett was not a man of the latter class. Being muscular, of large frame and a natural commander of men, he at once organized a force of volunteers to pull down a long shed that extended easterly from near the burning buildings to a large barn near what is now the west side of Mechanic street at its junction with Main. He proved himself to be the man for the time and his action saved the barn. It was at this fire that the oft-repeated incident occurred of a man so unbalanced by excitement that he threw out of a chamber window articles that broke on coming in contact with the ground while his next move was to rush down stairs with a feather bed.

benefit of the band that had added so much to the interest of meeting. Collected \$4.60. Voted to dissolve the meeting.

"J. W. MORSE, Sec."

"December 29th, 1846.* This society met at the town hall, the president, Rev. Mr. Abbott, in the chair. Prayer by Rev. Mr. Packard. Second lecture from Rev. Mr. Barnes of Clappville. Society took up a collection to defray the expenses of said meeting. \$2.57 collected. 62½ cents to Sylvester Luther, the remainder to Rev. Mr. Barnes.

"Thursday Eve, February 7th, 1850. This society met by regular appointment. The president (Dr. E. F. Dyer) in the chair. Prayer was offered by Rev. R. D. Winslow. Lecture by Daniel Kimball, Esq.

"Voted to choose a district committee to circulate the Pledge.

Made choice for District No. 1, E. Wheelock ; 2, Joel Grout ; 3, J. W. Morse ; 4, John Lamb ; 5, Daniel Ball ; 6, Plummer Prouty ; 7, William G. Muzzy ; 8, Elias Hall, Jr. ; 9, William Sampson ; 10, Alpheus Bemis ; 11, Nathaniel Eldridge.

"Monday Eve., January 5th, 1852. Annual meeting of this society. The President (Sanford Snow) in the chair. Minutes of last annual meeting being read, voted to choose a District committee to circulate Petition to be sent to the Legislature, in favor of the Maine Liquor Law.

Made choice of the following committee : District No. 1, Ephraim Wheelock ; 2, Joel Grout ; 3, Aaron Watson ; 4, John Lamb ; 5, Pliny Allen ; 6, Plummer Prouty ; 7, William G. Muzzy ; 8, Edward Hall ; 9, Lawson Savage ; 9, William Sampson ; 10, Alpha Bemis ; 10, William Bemis, 2nd ; 11, William Bemis, 2nd.

"Lecture by Daniel Kimball, Esq. Voted to adjourn to Wednesday Eve., the 14th inst.

"J. W. MORSE."

The last meeting was held Sept. 13, 1852, but no business of importance was transacted. The society which had accomplished so much for Spencer disbanded for what reasons are not known, though internal dissensions were probably the cause.

*What happened at this meeting not recorded or what had previously happened and not a matter of record is not known, but it is certain great dissatisfaction of some kind was instrumental in causing the withdrawal of the following members from the society. The loss of so many of the influential men of the town greatly crippled the usefulness of the society but it still continued in its work. It is thought that the current wine and cider agitation was the leading element in causing the dissatisfaction. Rev. Mr. Packard returned to the society or at least took part in some of its succeeding meetings :

Withdrew Dec. 29th, 1846 : Alvin B. Abbott, William Pope, Danforth Burgess, Levi Packard, Richard Mills, William D. Burgess, James Draper, Jabez Green, Luman Boyden.

SHAY'S REBELLION

The history of the long line of events, leading up to the American Revolution, as also those that followed, of general interest to the American people, is an interesting and familiar tale: There were also events of a local nature, which were the outgrowth of the war, and conditions following it, which if given to the public in as much detail, would prove exceedingly interesting, as showing the kind of mettle those pioneers were made of in their struggles for life, liberty and a tolerant existence.

At the close of the war they experienced a deep and widespread suffering, the oppressive conditions of the country weighing heavily upon them and during the decade that followed 1776, these conditions, instead of becoming less rigorous, were intensified, to an alarming extent, as time passed on. The currency had reached its minimum, in value; credit was exhausted, farmers and mechanics were crushed with debts, yet by order of the General Court they were relentlessly pressed by public officers and lawyers alike. The legislature was flooded with petitions, praying for relief from burdensome taxation. In the opinion of the petitioners these taxes interfered with their rights under the articles of confederation. The civil lists of the local courts were filled with actions and suitors, and in lieu of the payment of their "unjust debts," imprisonment was threatened as the only alternative. Lawyers, sheriffs and public officers were particularly obnoxious to the people at this juncture, as it was felt that they were not only in sympathy with, but were prime movers in the long list of prosecutions, for the sake of the fees, which promised a golden harvest.

In 1785 and '86 about 4000 suits, against poor debtors, were entered in the courts at Worcester and before the close of the latter year, the feeling had become so intense that threats to interrupt their proceedings were freely made. These threats culminated at the time for the sitting of the September court, as Captain Adam Wheeler of Hubbardston, at the head of eighty men marched to Worcester and forced an adjournment, which was made until the 23rd of January fol-

lowing. This date was fixed by order of the General Court and the local court was to convene under the protection of the militia, by order of Governor Bowdoin. These government troops arrived in Worcester on the 22d and were reinforced by the local militia. This demonstration, backed by the authority of the government, had the desired effect, for early in February quiet had been restored and opposition to established order had vanished from Worcester and vicinity.

The rebellion, however, was not yet quelled, as the leaders of it were gathering their men in the north part of the county, for a further show of resistance, and it was this obstinacy which induced Governor Bowdoin to adopt drastic methods, by ordering General Benjamin Lincoln, who was at that time stationed at Hadley, with a force of government troops, to proceed at once to their rendezvous and capture or disperse the insurgents. After a forced march of thirty hours in a blinding, freezing snow storm, they were overtaken at Petersham. The sudden appearance of the troops was a great surprise and without the discharge of a musket, a panic followed which resulted in a complete rout, and soon the rebellion became an incident of the past.

Shay's rebellion forms one of the matters of local history mentioned at the beginning of this article and it was made so from the fact that some of the citizens of Spencer participated in it. As a history of it, in detail, is not and probably never will be of easy access to this community, and to meet such a contingency this article has been compiled from county and town records and valuable extracts taken from the history of Hon. James Draper and also from the "History of Shay's Rebellion," by Ellery B. Crane, late of Worcester.

Shay's Rebellion*

The Shay's Rebellion furnishes a remarkable illustration of how readily environment, strained conditions, and suggestion, operate to influence and fix traits of character in progeny. A large majority of children born during those troublous times grew up to be extremely penurious, and were responsible for saddling New England character with the saying, "They would pinch a twenty-five cent silver coin until the eagle screamed and blood dripped from his carcass."

James Draper in his history of Spencer, page 60, gives quite an elaborate and very impartial account of this rebeli-

*Probably the best history of Shay's rebellion has been written by Mr. Ellery B. Crane of Worcester, and published by the Worcester Society of Antiquity for 1882.

lion in central Massachusetts in 1786, but only gives relatively brief mention of the part which the inhabitants of Spencer took during that memorable contest. The details of those times, however, are of interest as side lights and it is with a view of compiling and preserving these in convenient form that this article has been undertaken. Quotations from other writers will freely be made and many original documents from our town records introduced. James Draper says "The Government and the people of Massachusetts had devoted all their moral and physical powers in the cause of the Revolution and at its close found their resources exhausted and both government and people loaded with enormous weight of public and private debts. Paper money which was nearly the whole currency had depreciated until it was of no value and credit was nearly as low as paper money. The chief creditors of the state were its own citizens. Some of them had advanced money and were bonafide creditors. Others, and some of these were government officials, had purchased state securities and soldiers' certificates at less than one-eighth of their nominal value and these could have afforded to wait a little longer and all these creditors were pressing the government for payment. The legislature being thus plied, unwisely yielded and enormous taxes were imposed upon the people."

Hard money was the only legal tender for taxes and as the country had been nearly drained of specie there was no medium wherewith to pay them.

The Tender Act was passed July 3, 1782, enabling individuals to pay private contracts with other property, the value of which was to be fixed by impartial men under oath, but this proved to be unsatisfactory and caused no end of wrangling between debtor and creditor.

Mr. Crane says, "the common people were indeed sorely pressed to meet their private obligations while levy after levy of public taxes was being laid upon them by the legislature. This condition brought a rapid increase of civil actions giving the legal fraternity a grand opportunity of reaping a harvest, and so well did they perform their services and so vastly were their numbers increased that they became an eyesore to the public. The lawyer was charged with having brought about a large share of the burdens which the people were laboring under. It was publicly demanded that this profession should be abolished; that its members certainly should not be allowed to hold public office and in many cases the representatives chosen for the year 1786 were instructed by their constituents to annihilate them. It was hard indeed to see honest and

industrious men, valuable helpers in society, dragged off to prison or their lands seized and sold to satisfy a debt, or for the payment of overburdensome taxes. The people were driven to desperation by such occurrences and their attacks were first made on the lawyers who brought suits, then on the courts who passed sentence ; and is it to be wondered at that they desired to stay proceedings in the lower courts until such time as the Legislature through their representatives might relieve them by new enactments."

More than two thousand of these civil cases were entered for trial at Worcester during the year 1784 and over seventeen hundred the year following. Draper says : "At this time it is said that the offices of Levi Lincoln, Sr., of Worcester, Dwight Foster of Brookfield and John Sprague of Lancaster, the principal lawyers in the county, were thronged every day with suitors and presented the appearance of some public day when there is a gathering of the people, the dooryards of their offices and adjoining fences being lined with horses and carriages of unfortunate debtors and not much less unfortunate creditors." He says again : "In spite, however, of the petitions, the remonstrances, the clamors and the threats of the people, the courts continued to entertain all actions for the recovery of debts and to issue executions as usual."

Again, "The public mind now became highly inflamed and the voice of discontent was raised to the highest pitch, and a large majority of the inhabitants of the town were united in sentiment and action with the malcontents."

Mr. Crane says : "At this time it was estimated that not more than one-quarter of the people in the state could be relied upon as firm supporters of the government. As well as can now be judged Spencer was as active and united in the moral support at least of the insurrection as any town in the state, although as she furnished no leading men she did not become conspicuous in the movement. To show her aggressiveness she called a county convention to be held at Leicester to consider the situation, while Sutton appears to be the only other town in the county to take such a forward step."

The reader now having a good general idea of the causes that led up to the rebellion and the conditions prevailing at the time will now be prepared to let Spencer tell her own story in her instructions to her representatives to committees, and petitions to the General Court. For this purpose many original documents will follow which throw much light on the situation and habits of the times. We will commence

in 1782 when active remonstrances first began to manifest themselves.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts, February 11, 1782.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled :

The remonstrance and petition of the inhabitants of the town of Spencer in town meeting legally assembled February ye 6, 1782 and continued by adjournment to the 11th of ye same.

To take under their serious consideration the last acts of the general court for the general valuation and apportioning and assessing a tax on this Commonwealth. Also of imposing duties of excise of sundry articles mentioned in said act. Humbly sheweth, That we take liberty to remonstrate against the valuation act as unjust, oppressive and an infringement of ye natural rights of mankind and the constitutional rights of your constituents.

1st The act requiring the assessors to make returns on oath and not empowering them to obtain the knowledge necessary thereto as altogether unjust and unreasonable because as impossible as Nebuchadnezzar demanding of his magicians an interpretation of his untold dream.

2d Because we are doomed for articles we never had and it is likely never shall have.

3rd Because in the valuation there is not a proper allowance made for our different situation from the metropolis which renders the profits of our farmers very inconsiderable to those of an equal bigness and quality near the maritime and market towns.

4th Because the act directing the assessors to make their valuation on the interest of estates at six and two per cent consequently kills and takes possession with less color of justice than Ahab did Naboth and his vineyard by depriving nine-tenths of the free and loyal subjects of this Commonwealth of their privilege of voting in town meeting and thereby exposing them to a state of vassalage not to be endured.

Secondly. We remonstrate against the act imposing certain duties of excise on sundry articles therein mentioned.

1st Because it is an unequal mode of raising money and ought to be repealed.

2d We apprehend the mode of collecting is such as will render the good people mentioned in the preamble of said act in a great measure abortive, it being calculated to enrich the collector and expose him to temptation to perjure himself and whom we think to be entirely needless and superfluous, and

that those duties might be collected much cheaper by the constables and collectors of the respective towns.

3rd We apprehend that the allowance made to innholders and retailers for leakage and wastages is vastly too much.

4th Because the act is calculated to increase the rich who are able to buy 50 pounds of tea at one time and burden the poor because he is poor.

Therefore we request that the first mentioned acts be forthwith repealed and new, just and equitable acts passed for the taking of the valuations and assessment or otherwise redress the grievances complained of in the remonstrance, they being too palpable to be desired and too great to be borne. We request that the excise act be repealed and your petitioners as in duty bound shall ever pray. Voted and accepted.

The committee was Maj. David Prouty, John Parker, Elijah Howe, Lieut. John Muzzy, Capt. Benjamin Bemis.

May 16, 1782, the town voted to instruct its representative as follows :

“To Mr. Isaac Jenks.

Sir : The inhabitants of the Town of Spencer in town meeting assembled May the 16th, 1782, for the purpose of choosing a representative, having from their good opinion of your ability and patriotic public spirit and disposition chosen you to represent them at the great and general court, enjoin it upon you that you always keep in view the grand end of government, viz. : to the good and happiness of the people and that you use your best endeavors to promote the same by all proper ways and measures within your power and to discountenance all matters, means and things that are calculated to build up or invest any man or men or class of men on the ruins of the public, and that the poor and laboring man be especially regarded since it is by his hand that the profits of the field are produced, by which all must be sustained. That you pay strict and close attention to the rules of government as set forth in our constitution of government and bill of rights. That you boldly assert and resolutely defend our rights and privileges against all opposers whatsoever. That you faithfully discharge the trust reposed in you by your constituents as you shall from time to time receive by them and of which you may expect to be called to give an account for their satisfaction and your honor. That you give timely notice to your constituents of all public matters and things that specially concern them. That you use your utmost power and influence for the removal of public grievances. Specially : 1st, That you attend to and adopt such measures as are recommended

by the convention assembled at Worcester on April ye 9th, 1782, and by an adjournment to May the 14th, 1782, excepting the fifth and sixth resolves ; 2d, Whereas the great and general court in its last session passed an act entitled, an act providing for a more speedy method of recovering debts and for preventing unnecessary costs attending the same, no way being pointed out in said act how the debtor is to be notified. We, therefore, your constituents, think it is necessary that there should be an act in addition to the act aforesaid pointing out in what manner the debtor should be notified to confess debt and that it be made unlawful to sue until the debtor be notified in manner as may be provided in said additional act ; 3rd, That you endeavor to prevent the public moneys being expended on needless places, men or pensioners and that no man be allowed any pay or pension for any longer time than he shall be in actual service, excepting those who shall receive wounds in the war by which they are disabled."

"November 19, 1785, Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives
in General Court assembled :

The petition of the inhabitants of the Town of Spencer at a legal town meeting assembled the 16th day of November, 1785, most humbly sheweth, That your petitioners being deeply impressed and sensibly touched with the present scarcity of a circulating medium and as we understand there is a large demand made by Congress upon the several states in the union for money, as also we expect a heavy tax will be laid upon the inhabitants of this Commonwealth in the present sessions of the court, together, we as well as others, are in arrears for past taxes with a heavy debt contracted by the town for hiring men and providing beef for the army in the course of the war, which are not yet discharged, beside private contracts between one and another and both public and private debts being called for by those to whom they are due and nothing but cash will answer the demands and that we have not nor is it to be had. Stocks and produce we have to spare, but that will not pay our debts until it is sold at the post and then it comes to very little. In the most disagreeable situation therefore we find ourselves in these distressing circumstances. We have no where to look for relief but our wise and judicious legislature whom we hope are able and we doubt not they are willing to help in this general calamity. Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that your honors would take the matter into serious consideration and point out some way whereby the distress of the people may be relieved, either by making a

bank of paper money to pass in all payments equal to silver and gold or by making real and personal estate of all kinds a tender in discharge of debts at an appraisement that the debtor may not have his property taken from him for less than half the value thereof as it often is the case by being sold at the post or in some other way, which you in your wisdom you shall think just and equitable and as in duty bound shall ever pray."

The town by this time was in such straitened circumstances that it appears to have been unable to meet its financial obligations. Suits were brought, defaults made, executions levied. The condition of affairs certainly was a serious one. A record of one case on which execution was ordered by the court is as follows:

"Elisha Prouty* of Rutland in the County of Worcester husbandman, plaintiff vs. the inhabitants of the town of Spencer in the same county defendants.

"In a plea of the case, for that whereas the said inhabitants at Worcester aforesaid on the twenty-fifth day of March, 1785, by their promissory note of hand of that date signed by Benjamin Bemis Jr., James Hathaway and John Sumner Jr., Selectmen of said Town of Spencer, for value received for the use of said Town of Spencer, promised the plaintiff to pay him on his order the sum of thirty pounds and seven shillings and eleven pence on demand with interest till paid; yet the said inhabitants though often requested the same sum hath not paid, nor the interest thereof, but neglect it to the damage of the said Elisha Prouty as he saith the sum of sixty pounds. As by the writs on file dated the first day of August last appears.

"This action was commenced to be heard and tried at a court of common pleas begun and held at Worcester within and for said county of Worcester on the first Tuesday of September last, when and where the plaintiff appeared and by order of court the same was continued to the present term. And now the plaintiff appears, but the defendants nor either of them, although solemnly called to come into court, do not appear but make default. It is therefore considered by the court that the said Elisha Prouty recover against the said inhabitants of the Town of Spencer the sum of 33 lbs., 14s, 9d, lawful money damage and costs of suit."

It seems but probable that the town finally obtained money with which to cancel its debts by pawning its state securities.

*Elisha Prouty was a Spencer man who had married a woman living in Rutland and was temporarily residing there. He soon returned to Spencer and carried on the farm south of the "Alta Crest," farm of Arthur H. Sagendorph.

March 22, 1786. Voted to pawn the state securities; that is the town's property for a sum of money to discharge the executions now against the town.

On June 8, 1786. "Voted to send a petition to the court of common pleas, which is to set at Worcester on Tuesday, 10th of June, praying said court to adjourn said court to a further term till the people can have an opportunity to petition the General court by way of a county convention."

A committee was chosen June 5, 1786, to meet with delegates from other towns at Worcester to make petition to General court for redress of grievances.

At a town meeting legally assembled by a special warning on Thursday, the 8th day of June, 1786, at three o'clock in the afternoon. Dea. Oliver Watson, moderator. Motion made to see if the town would choose a committee to draw two petitions; one to the General court of this Commonwealth, praying for relief of grievances some way or other occasioned by the scarcity of a circulating medium to answer the great demands now called for. The other to petition the court of common pleas which is to set at Worcester on Tuesday next, 13th instant June, praying said court to adjourn said court to a further term till the people can have opportunity to petition the General court by way of a county convention. Vote passed in the affirmative.

A committee of five were chosen to "draught resolutions," who reported as follows at an adjourned meeting held June 12, following:

"The inhabitants of the town of Spencer. Gentlemen—You did at your meeting the 8th day of this instant June, choose us a committee to take into consideration and point out some method to proceed in for the relief of the good people of this commonwealth. We, your humble servants, beg leave to report to you and give it as our opinion that we write circular letters to the towns in the county of Worcester and we have likewise done it and have desired the towns to meet us by their delegates on Monday, 26th day of this instant June, at the house of Mr. George Brewers, innholder, at Leicester, at nine o'clock a. m., to take under their consideration the present distress and take such measures as their constituents shall instruct them for redress of grievances. We further give it as our opinion it is best not to petition the Legislative body, as the petition of a single town at this time and no deputy to take care of it will be of little or no service at all. If the towns in the county should join with us in convention. If not, then petition as the town should think best. We further give it as

our opinion that it is best not to petition the court of common pleas at Worcester, which sets tomorrow, as it was proposed by some, as it is inconsistent to petition a body of men that haven't power within themselves to redress grievances, and for one town to be singular in such a motion will rather show ignorance and be a reproach. We would recommend to the town at this meeting to choose one or more delegates to sit in convention and give him or them instructions and adjourn this meeting to Tuesday, the 29th day of this instant June. Signed Oliver Watson, John Sumner Jr., Benj. Bemis Jr., committee."

John Sumner Jr., was chosen delegate to sit in convention at Leicester and represent the town, and instructed him to inform the convention that it is the opinion of the town that a bank of paper money would be the most expedient relief for the people.

June 29, adjourned meeting; heard report of John Sumner Jr., as to doings of convention at Leicester and voted it to be satisfactory. Voted to choose an additional delegate to attend an adjourned meeting of convention and Dea. Oliver Watson was chosen.

Adjourned town meetings were also held August 15, August 21st, September 25th, October 3rd, and matters discussed, with but little progress made towards settling the questions at issue. The last meeting is reported as having been dissolved by the moderator "forgiting the adjournment."

At a town meeting held January 1, 1787, on 3rd article, to see if the town will petition the Governor and General court for a settlement of the tumults that unhappily have arisen among us. Passed in the affirmative and the following committee were chosen to draft the petition: Ensign John Sumner, Mr. Aaron Hunt, Lieut. John Muzzy, Mr. Wm. Green, Maj. David Prouty, Lieut. Jonas Muzzy, Mr. Elijah Howe, Lieut. James Hathaway, Lieut. Abijah Livermore. Adjourned to January 4, 1787. Adopted committee's report and chose Town Clerk to sign petition on behalf of the town and transmit the same to his excellency, the Governor.

COPY OF THE PETITION.

"To his Excellency, James Bowdoin, Esq., Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The petition of the freeholders and other inhabitants of the town of Spencer at a meeting legally called and held this first day of January, 1787, humbly sheweth: That whereas, a number of the inhabitants of this Commonwealth

have been dragged to prison in a county remote to which they belong is a grievance very alarming. Your petitioners therefore pray that your Excellency be pleased to grant that these men now under confinement may be liberated, if consistent with the authority vested in your Excellency. Your petitioners further pray that your Excellency would be pleased to recall all warrants which may have been issued by your Excellency against any person in order to carry them out of the county to which they belong for trial, until the sitting of the General court and as in duty bound shall ever pray."

"The petition of the freeholders and other inhabitants of Senate and House of Representatives in General court, who are to assemble 31st instant.

The petition of the freeholders and other inhabitants of the town of Spencer duly qualified to vote in town affairs legally assembled January 1st, 1787. Humbly sheweth: That whereas, there hath been very great and alarming appearances of hostilities being commenced, by the means used to prevent the sitting of the court of common pleas and general sessions of the peace, as also in measures taken by Government to support them and causes of said tumult are not removed. Your petitioners being stimulated from a consideration of the great importance of mutual love, peace and good order, pray that your honors would be pleased to grant that said courts may be abolished or otherwise adjourned in the counties of Worcester, Hampshire and Barkshier until after the next election and discussion of the honorable general court of this Commonwealth, as we conceive the existence of said courts is a very great and unnecessary burden upon the people. We also conceive the suspension of the writ of Habeas Corpeas by which a number of inhabitants of this Commonwealth have been dragged to prison in a county remote from that in which they belong is a grievance very alarming. Your petitioners therefore pray that your honors would be pleased to repeal said act which deprives us of the privileges of said writ and grant that those men now under confinement may be liberated and that they together with all others who have arisen in opposition to the sitting of said courts may have an act of indemnity, who shall in future behave orderly and as becometh loyal subjects.

"However, your petitioners cheerfully submit the matter, reposing special confidence in the wisdom and clemency of your honors in concerting such measures as tend to a general declension of the unhappy commotions amongst us, so that peace, love and concord may be restored throughout the Com-

monwealth and as in duty bound shall ever pray. Spencer, January 4, 1787.

“Done in Town meeting assembled by an adjournment.

“BENJ. BEMIS, Jr., Town Clerk.”

The acute stage of the rebellion came in the Fall of 1786. It was the time for the sitting of the courts. The day of complaint, remonstrance and petition seemed to be past and a sufficient number of citizens in various parts of the state marched to their respective county seats and stopped the sitting of the courts by the force of numbers and arms. The men who made up the bulk of the insurgent soldiery were composed of those who had seen service in the Continental Army, men of undoubted courage who knew the meaning of war and were prepared to take the consequences of their action. It had been claimed from the beginning that the one and only objective point held in view by the Regulators, as they called themselves, was to prevent the sitting of the courts without bloodshed, untill such time as the people could get an adjustment of the laws through the legislature and this assertion generally prevailed in all the acts of the insurgents. At the same time the Spencer company, who marched to Worcester, carried powder and ball ready to do deadly work if an exigency should arise which they might think would require it. Governor Bowdoin finally sent a force of state troops, established the courts, and then pursued such insurgent bands as still held together. On the 20th day of February, 1787, about two hundred insurgents were at New Braintree and the government sent about twenty horsemen and one hundred and fifty infantry in sleighs to dislodge them. They were fired upon by a party of insurgents concealed behind a stone wall and two of the party injured, one of them, Dr. David Young, receiving a bad wound in the knee. With the above exceptions all through the campaign the insurgents neither killed or wounded any of the inhabitants of the state. On the other hand quite a number of Revolutionists were killed outright and others wounded by state troops. The squad of men who fired on the state's soldiers mentioned above included David May of this town, a great grandfather of the compiler of this work; also Josiah Kingsbury, clothier of Oxford, grandfather of Henry G. Kingsbury; Reuben Lamb, a miller; David Stone and John Barton Jr., husbandmen, all of Oxford, Thomas Mower of Brookfield, gentleman, John Pratt of Ward and Luther Wicker of Paxton, husbandmen. They were under the command of Reuben Lamb and it is supposed he gave the orders to fire. Dr. Young, then of Ipswich, sued in the court held at Ipswich for the county of

Essex and recovered a gross judgment against all the insurgents named above of nine hundred pounds with costs, collection to be made from any one or all of them as circumstances proved to be favorable. It appears that property enough to satisfy the judgment could not be found in possession of them all, so Young took all he could get wherever he found it. David May at this time owned a good farm in the north part of the town, lately known as the John A. Frink place. Young secured this, and May having lost all his property in this suit, went to Brattleboro, Vt., and started life anew. His son, William, afterward purchased from Young, who had settled at South Brimfield, the farm of their father and for two generations more it was in possession of the May family. Josiah Kingsbury fled to Rhode Island, one of the states where an insurgent could live in safety. Vermont was another state the governor of which would not honor a requisition from the governor of Massachusetts to deliver up insurgents and that state became a harbor of refuge for those who felt that safety demanded their removal elsewhere. This rebellion proved a God-send to Vermont, over seven hundred families of the best blood and sinew in the state removing thither within the space of six weeks. This included Capt. Shays, who against his wishes had been at the head of the insurgent army.

Captain Daniel Shays was a native of Hopkinton, but at the age of twenty-three was living at Brookfield, where he married his wife, Abigail Gilbert in 1772. When the revolutionary war commenced he at once enlisted and was at the battle of Bunker Hill; afterwards made captain, served with distinction during the revolution and at its close was with other officers presented with an elegant sword by Marquis De Lafayette.

The history of North Brookfield says, "Capt. Francis Stone of North Brookfield was the brains of the Shays Rebellion movement. He was a man of great decision of character, actively engaged with his father, who was killed in the French war and afterwards in the war of the revolution, where he soon distinguished himself and was promoted to the rank of captain. He had the reputation in the service of a brave and daring soldier and a successful leader of scouting parties. It was probably on account of his character as an officer in the revolutionary army that he was selected as a leader in the Shays Rebellion to which he attached himself and in which he became very prominent, not only as a military leader, but also as chairman of their meetings and committee of correspondence in which he manifested great ability as well as zeal; indeed, if there were any wisdom in counselling rebellion, he was one of

the wisest counsellors in all that ill-advised and ill-resulting movement. At the defeat and final dispersion of the rebel army at Petersham in February, 1787, he was among those who fled for refuge to Vermont, where he remained until the decree of amnesty was issued by Governor John Hancock, when he returned to his home and the occupations of peace. He always justified the rebellion and never was heard to express any regret in relation to it, except at its failure. However sharply he was condemned by the patriots of his day the cooler judgment of the next generation seems to have given him credit for acting conscientiously. It is certain that he never repented his course." A general pardon was extended by the state to all who should take the oath of allegiance prior to January 1, 1787, and those who had borne arms against the state from Spencer were commanded to surrender their arms to John Bisco, Esq., and take the oath. The following appears to be a partial record of the company from Spencer who marched to Worcester to prevent the sitting of the court in the Fall of 1786, and all these took the oath of allegiance as recorded on another page in this book.* The other members of the company without property or family interests had probably fled from the state. Wm. Bemis, an officer in the militia and an honored citizen in the annals of Spencer, petitioned for pardon October 28, 1786, presumably at Worcester.

While much of the foregoing was transpiring in other towns of the state, an unusual proceeding took place in Spencer. By the advice of Oliver Watson Jr., aged forty-four, a deacon of the Congregational church, patriot of the revolution, representative and citizen prominent in town affairs, Abijah Livermore aged twenty-one, Lot Livermore aged nineteen, Moses Livermore aged thirty-one, Benjamin Gleason Jr., aged twenty-eight, with Nathaniel Williams, Anthony Sprague and Samuel Jackson broke open the town's magazine, carried away and hid the town's stock of ammunition. But the day of regret and repentance came, which is fully told in the following documents.

Petition of Abijah Livermore to the inhabitants of Spencer. Gentlemen:

Spencer, March ye 6th, 1787.

I, the subscriber, being sensible of my conduct which has been much against justice and equity and have given just reason to the good people and inhabitants of this town to sneer

*John Sumner, Elijah Howe, Jonas Muzzy, James Watson, William Watson, Oliver Watson, Jr., Luke Converse, Ebenezer Mason, John Bisco, David Wilson, Robert Luther, James Sprague, Isaac Morgan, Benjamin Drury and Simon Draper.

and condemn me, especially in my conduct in joining with others whose names I shall presently mention or make known, which was Samuel Jackson, Benjamin Gleason Jr., Lot Livermore, Moses Livermore Jr., Nathaniel Williams and Anthony Sprague with the advice of Oliver Watson Jr., I say I have just reason given the good people of this town to condemn me in joining with the above named persons sometime in December last and did unlawfully enter the public meeting-house in Spencer and unlawfully removed therefrom the store of the town or town stock of ammunition and keeping the same secereted some considerable time and then taking unsuitable ways to return the same, all which conduct I am sensible is evil and unjust and for which I am heartily sorry and most earnestly pray for the pardon and for the forgiveness of all the inhabitants of this town and other good people, as I am willing to make full restitution for all deficiency which shall be found wanting in said stores and as Lot Livermore and Moses Livermore Jr., together with Benjamin Gleason Jr., acted not voluntarily of themselves, but by my desire and persuasion, I earnestly recommend them to the free pardon and forgiveness of the town and earnestly ask the prayer of all God's people to God for me that He would give me a heart and grace that I might be enabled to live a life more agreeable to his laws and commands than ever I have yet done.

ABIJAH LIVERMORE.

At a town meeting held April 20, 1787.

Voted to accept the petition of Abijah Livermore by his making good the town stock of ammunition. Voted also, to accept the petitions of Nathaniel Williams, Moses Livermore, Jr. and Anthony Sprague.

Spencer, March ye 12th, 1787.

To the Inhabitants of the Town of Spencer. Gentlemen:

Whereas, we, the subscribers, have assisted in removing the town stores of ammunition from the meeting-house and thereby given reason to the town to blame our conduct, being fully sensible of the unjustifiableness thereof and are heartily sorry that we acted as we did, we hereby for ourselves most earnestly desire the forgiveness of the town that we may have assistance to live to the honor of the town and the glory of God in all our future conduct.

NATHANIEL WILLIAMS,
ANTHONY SPRAGUE,
MOSES LIVERMORE, Jr.

Matters had now reached such a stage that the oath of allegiance to the state was in many cases required to be taken by town officials and by citizens generally who in act had shown active sympathy with the insurgents' course.

Spencer, March 13, 1787.

The town officers, having been duly elected they were warned by Constable Isaac Morgan to meet at the dwelling house of Benjamin Drury, town clerk, on or before the 23rd of the same month to be sworn to the faithful performance of the office to which they were chosen.

Oath of Allegiance.

I, A. B., do truly and sincerely acknowledge, profess, testify and declare that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is and of right ought to be a free, sovereign, and independent state and I do swear that I will bear true faith and allegiance to said Commonwealth and that I will defend the same against traitorous conspiracies and all hostile attempts whatsoever and that I do renounce and abjure all allegiance, subjection and obedience to the King, Queen or government of Great Britain as the case may be and every other foreign power and that no foreign prince, person, prelate, state or potentate hath or ought to have any jurisdiction, superiority, pre-eminence, authority, dispensing or other power in any matter, civil, ecclesiastical or spiritual within the Commonwealth, except the authority and power which is or may be vested by their constituents in the Congress of the United States. And, I do further testify and declare that no man or body of men hath or can have any right to absolve or discharge me from the obligation of this oath, declaration or affirmative denial, renunciation, abjuration heartily and truly according to the common meaning and acceptance of the foregoing words, without any equivocation, mental evasion or secret reservation whatsoever. So help me God.

Signed :

JOHN SUMNER, Jr.,
DAVID PROUTY,
ELIJAH HOWE,
LUKE CONVERSE,
JAMES HATHAWAY,
JOHN MUZZY, Jr.,
ROBERT LUTHER.

Instructions to James Hathaway by the Town of Spencer,
May 28, 1787. Sir: You being chosen by the inhabitants

of the town of Spencer to represent them in the great and general court of this Commonwealth for the ensuing year and not doubting but your ability and integrity is equal to the great and arduous service assigned you. Notwithstanding, we think it our duty to give you instructions, as it is a day of public distress and trouble and dark clouds hang over this Commonwealth. Therefore we instruct you that you would do all in your power that wars may cease in the midst of said Commonwealth and that peace and tranquility and harmony take place and that you do all that is in your power for confirming and strengthening the union of these states. That you attend strictly to the principles of the Commonwealth and preserve the same unviolated. And that you would endeavor that there may be an act of general indemnity for all who are members of said Commonwealth that have taken up arms to hinder the sitting of the courts in a number of counties in said Commonwealth and also all those of every description who are under sentence of death, or bonds, that are fled to the neighboring states for safety, that they may soon return home to their friends and families in peace and enjoy their privileges as formerly, upon conditions they behave well for the future. And also those that have taken up arms as aforesaid, and have laid them down and have taken and subscribed to the oath of allegiance. You are hereby instructed to do all in your power that their disqualifications may be taken off and that they may be restored to their former privileges, then behaving well for the future. That all the troops which have been raised by government for suppressing the Regulators, as they call themselves, may soon be discharged and return to their homes and to their own business.

It is greatly weakening to this state to have such a great number of men kept from labor and under pay. You are hereby instructed to endeavor that the rights and liberties of the people be not abridged, but enlarged. Oppose tyranny and oppression in all its forms and shapes and colors. That the fee table be attended to and fees and salaries of the servants of this state may be lowered such as are too high. You are directed to endeavor that the tender act be renewed and altered in case it needs. That taxes may be as favorable as circumstances will admit. That there may be a very large excise laid upon distilled liquors, both foreign and domestic, and also a very large duty upon imported goods, especially upon superfluities. You are hereby instructed to do all in your power that innholders and retailers of spiritous liquors be for the future so licensed in the towns where they respec-

tively belong by the selectmen of the respective towns or other persons appointed for the purpose. We think it needful that the great and general court be moved out of the town of Boston to some town in the county as there are interruptions in Boston and we apprehend that business would be done well and faster in the country. Our ardent desire is that the presence of God may be with you and direct you and the whole general assembly of this Commonwealth and that said assembly may be led into such measures from time to time which may be most for God's glory and the peace and comfort of the people. That your doings may always be like good King David, for whatever he did he pleased all the people.

BENJAMIN DRURY, Town Clerk.

Petition to Governor John Hancock.

The petition of the inhabitants of the Town of Spencer at a legal town meeting assembled on Monday, the 9th day of July, 1787, at the special request of Henry Gale. Humbly sheweth, that whereas the said Henry Gale of Princeton, in the County of Worcester, a prisoner and under sentence of death and confined in the common jail of said county for the heinous crime of high treason against this Commonwealth, which sentence is to be executed on the second day of August next, and whereas the said Henry Gale appears to be very penitent and humble for his wicked crime aforesaid and has a great desire that his life may be spared and that he might have an opportunity to prove to the world the sincerity of his repentance by his behaving in the future as a loyal citizen of this Commonwealth. Therefore your petitioners humbly pray that your excellency and honors would if it can be found to be consistent with the peace and safety of this Commonwealth extend your grace and mercy so far towards the above said Henry Gale as to grant him a pardon for his atrocious crime of high treason against said Commonwealth. All of which is humbly submitted to your excellencies and honors wisdom and as in duty bound shall ever pray.

A true copy attest:

BENJAMIN DRURY, Town Clerk.

***One of the Ways Spencer Got Into Debt.**

Spencer, Aug. 20, 1781.

Received of the Selectmen of the town of Spencer eleven head of beef cattle estimated at five thousand eight hundred and ten pounds weight being in full of the 2d assessment of beef on said town.

JACOB DAVIS, Agent.

*The Kingsbury's trace their ancestry to Josiah Kingsbury who settled at Dedham in 1637. Josiah, Jr., born Dec. 26, 1677. His son Josiah was born Nov. 15, 1705 and settled on Hobart Grant, Oxford. His son Jeremiah was born in 1735. Jeremiah's son Josiah was born June 30, 1759. At the age of sixteen he joined the Revolutionary army, serving through the war. After his return he learned the clothier's trade and began business at the outlet of the great pond, South Oxford, continuing until 1812 when he sold his business to Samuel Slater. He removed to Spencer in April, 1816, and settled in south east Spencer on the farm recently sold by his grandson, Henry H. Kingsbury to William A. Wilson. His daughter Ruth placed on record the fact that he was at West Point under Benedict Arnold, the traitor, and acting quartermaster at the time. He was an ensign when discharged. He married Dec. 15, 1795, Esther Craig of Leicester. Died in Spencer, July 2, 1819.

*The balance of the insurgents fled to Rutland Barracks. These had been built for Burgoyne's prisoners, (see Vol. 2), captured at Saratoga in 1777. Rutland being in the interior was considered to be a place of safety. Several acres were enclosed at Rutland centre by a stockade twelve feet high within which barracks were constructed for the soldiers, and these were used by Captain Shays for his army in 1786. At the time when the British prisoners occupied the barracks there was a dead line all around inside the stockade over which prisoners were ordered not to step under penalty of death, but one of them by accident, or design stepped on the forbidden ground and was instantly shot. This incident was related by Jonathan Tower, great grandfather of the writer, who lived in Rutland at the time and did guard duty at the barracks. The British soldiery dug a well on the premises, still to be seen, and remarkable for its depth, its diameter and almost perfect stone work.

Another writer says "The few years following the Revolution were years of business depression and discouragement, currency worthless and collection of dues almost an impossibility; suing for debt became almost a mania. The cases on the Worcester docket in 1784-5 were numbered by thousands and much property was sacrificed on forced sales. General bankruptcy threatened the community and great distress prevailed." How the court could try so many cases would naturally excite credulity but it must be remembered that a large proportion, in fact nearly all, were defaulted.

*Henry Gale mentioned above was convicted of high treason and sentenced to death January 11, 1787. Thursday, June 21st he was taken to the gallows and there reprieved to August 2d, and again a respite of seven weeks granted. Fourteen persons including Capt. Shays, were tried for high treason and sentenced to death. Eight were granted full pardon shortly after conviction and the remaining six, like Henry Gale were reprieved from time to time and finally pardoned. Mr. Crane says in closing his article: "The most prominent of the insurrectionists were not punished beyond a short imprisonment and soon after their release were found occupying responsible positions of honor and trust in the several communities where they resided, showing conclusively that public sentiment was not to brand them as traitors but to allow respect for honest difference of opinion."

SPENCER IN THE CUBAN, PHILIPPINE AND CHINA WARS

Spencer has always furnished her full quota of men to defend the country's interests in the hour of peril but in the above campaign she outstripped all previous records. If the same relative proportion of men to the town's population had enlisted from the whole country, it would have made an army of half a million, while a hundred thousand soldiers is probably a fair estimate of troops actually employed by the government.

Below may be found a list of Spencer men who served during the campaign mentioned:

Archambeault, Frank, Co. M, 9th U. S. Infantry, Philippines and China.

Beaudin, Arthur D., 2d Heavy Artillery.

Bemis, John, Fortress Monroe, 58th Co. Coast Artillery.

Berthiaume, Frederick, Co. B, 46th U. S. Infantry, Philippines.

Bonner, Edward, 5th Cavalry, Cuba.

Bosse, Treffle, Co. D, 9th U. S. Infantry, Philippines and China.

Cahill, James P., Fortress Monroe, 58th Co. Coast Artillery.

Cassavant, Felix, 3rd Cavalry, Philippines.

Cheverette, Charles, Fort Slocum, N. York.

Cheverette, Isador, Co. G, 27th U. S. Infantry.

Collier, Frank, 2d Artillery in Cuba, 3rd U. S. Cavalry in Philippines.

Cooney, John, 12th U. S. Infantry.

Dauphinais, Alfred, 2d Cavalry.

Davenport, Edward, Co. F, 2d Mass. Vols., Cuba.

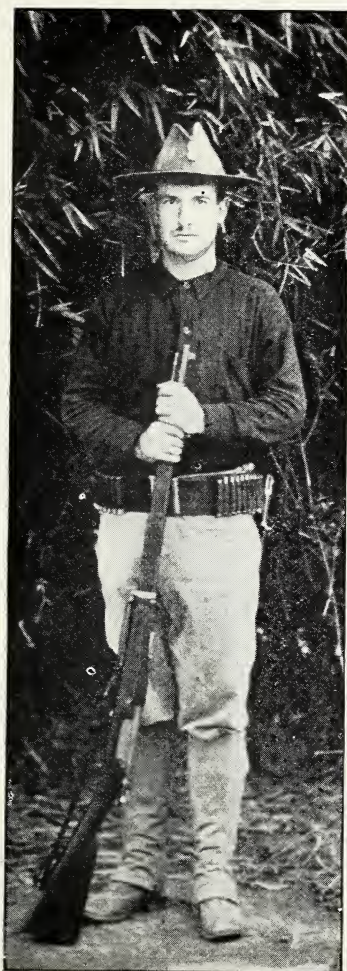
Deslauriers, E., 41st U. S. Infantry, Philippines.

Desplaines, Frederick, Co. L, 9th U. S. Infantry, Philippines. Captured probably by Philipinos.

Donahue, Thomas J., Co. D, 9th U. S. Infantry, Philippines and China.

Dooley, Patrick F., Co. D, 3rd U. S. Infantry, Philippines and west.

Dufault, Edward, U. S. Infantry, Philippines.



EUGENE LYON,

Enlisted January 8, 1899, in Co. I,
Ninth Regiment, U.S. Inf. Died February
28, 1901, at Tien Tsin, China.



JAMES MICHAEL MARTIN.

Born in Spencer, December 15, 1876.
His parents were James and Anna Jane
Martin. He enlisted December 7, 1899.

Fairbrother, W. Arthur, C Troop, 3rd U. S. Cavalry. Died in Vermont, 1901, from bullet wound in lung received in Cuba.

Fay, Corp. Herbert, Co. A, 2d Mass. Vols., Cuba.

Fay, Lewis M., Co. A, 2d Mass. Vols. Died at Monrovia, Cal., Dec. 31, 1901, from illness contracted in Cuba.

Forest, Alfred, Co. G, 12th U. S. Infantry, Cuba.

Gareau, Joseph, Co. F, 9th U. S. Infantry, Philippines and China.

Gagnon, Alfred, Co. B, 46th U. S. Infantry, Philippines.

Gordon, William, Co. G, 9th U. S. Infantry, Philippines.

Green, William C., Co. H, 2d Mass. Vols. Died from typhoid fever contracted at Santiago de Cuba Aug. 9, 1898, buried in Spencer, Nov. 14, 1898.

Greenwood, Eli, 12th U. S. Infantry.

Hill, Corp. Walter Harry, Troop E, 6th U. S. Cavalry. Wounded by shell in Cuban campaign.

Hines, Thomas, Troop G, 5th Cavalry, Cuba.

Lavalle, Peter, Navy.

Leonard, William, Co. G, 5th Mass. Vols.

Lyford, Frederick, 12th U. S. Infantry.

Lyon, Eugene F., Co. I, 9th U. S. Infantry. Died at Tien Tsin, China of pneumonia, February 28, 1901. Buried in Spencer, May 24, 1901.

Maloney, Dennis, Co. K, 6th Mass. Vols. Died in Spencer, July 10, 1901, from illness contracted in Porto Rican campaign.

Manion, Chester, 46th U. S. Infantry, Philippines.

Manion, 2d Lieut. Walter B., 12th and 13th U. S. Infantry, Philippines.

Martin, James, Co. A, 9th U. S. Infantry, Philippines and China.

McDonnell, Capt. John, Troop H, 1st Illinois Cavalry.

McGrath, John, Co. A, 9th U. S. Infantry, Philippines.

McKay, John E., Co. H, 2d Mass. Vols., Cuba.

Mulvey, Timothy, Musician, 7th U. S. Infantry.

Murphy, Edward, Co. G, 9th Mass. Vols.

New, Clarence, Battery G, U. S. Heavy Artillery.

Plante, Alfred, Troop C, 5th Cavalry.

Plante, Frank, 12th and 9th U. S. Infantry, Philippines.

Reno, Charles, Co. G, 12th U. S. Infantry, Cuba.

Robbins, Arthur, Troop K, 14th U. S. Cavalry, Arizona.

Silk, Martin, Co. F, 9th U. S. Infantry, Philippines and China. Wounded at Tien Tsin.

Sleeper, Charles, Co. H, 2d Mass. Vols., Cuba.

Sheehy, Sergt. John F., Co. H, 12th U. S. Infantry and 3rd Cavalry, Philippines.

Sloan, Lawrence, regular army, Cuba.

St. Martin, Charles, Co. J, 12th U. S. Infantry.

Stone, 1st Lieut. E. Raymond, 12th, 4th and 30th U. S. Infantry, Philippines.

Sullivan, Michael, Co. D, 7th U. S. Infantry.

Tourtelotte, Albert H., Co. H, 2d Mass. Vols., Cuba.

Tyler, John, 13th U. S. Infantry, Philippines.

Walker, Henry H., Co. D, 9th U. S. Infantry, Philippines and China.

Wilder, George, marine service.

The 9th Regt. U. S. Infantry did the most distinguished service, both in the Philippines and China and in this regiment were eleven men from Spencer. One of these, Frederick Desplaines, is supposed unfortunately to have been captured and murdered by Philipinos while out with an ox team gathering wood. Martin Silk was wounded at Tien Tsin while Eugene F. Lyon died of pneumonia at Tien Tsin, after having done distinguished service in the China campaign. A general outline of the movements of this regiment and the battles in which they were engaged is as follows :

Sailed for the Philippines March 28, 1899 ; arrived at Manila bay Apr. 26 ; skirmish at San Luise May 17 ; engagement at Gaudalupe Ridge ; Andford near Las Pinas, June 10 ; battle of Zapote River, June 13 ; engagement at Perez Dasmarinan, June 20 ; battle of Calulet, Aug. 9 ; Santa Rita, Sept. 9 and 16 ; battle of Porac, Sept. 28 ; defense of Angeles, eleven engagements ; against night attack, Oct. 14 and 15 ; capture of Bambam, Nov. 18 ; sailed from Manila for China, June 26th, 1900 ; arrived at Taku, China, July 9th ; joined the allied forces, July 10th ; battle of Tien Tsin, July 13 ; set out on the relief expedition to Pekin, Aug. 4 ; battle of Pie Tsang, Aug. 5 ; battle of Yang Tsun, Aug. 6 ; assault and capture of Pekin, Aug. 14 ; stormed the gates of the Imperial City, Aug. 15 ; expedition to Matan Hring Ha Hiene and Tong Chan, Dec. 28, January 1, 1901 ; left Pekin, May 22 ; arrived in Manila, did further service in Samar, June 1.

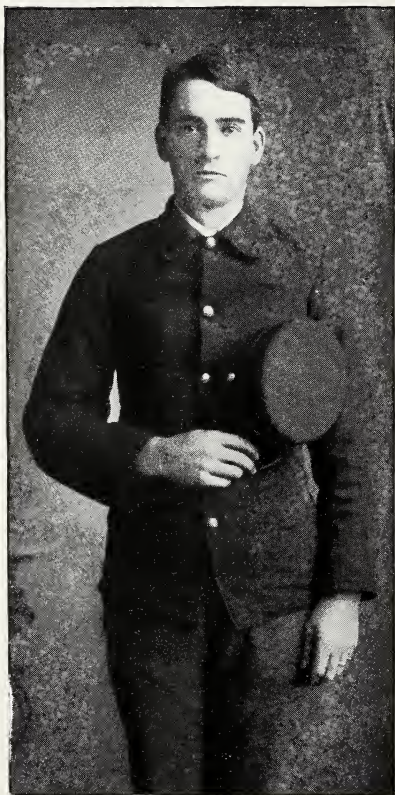
The following order shows the high esteem entertained by Gen. Joseph Wheeler for the 9th Regt. :

“Headquarters 1st Brigade 2nd Division 8th Army Corps.

Panigui Luzon, P. I. General Order No. 3, Jan. 15, 1900.

“In parting with the troops I have had the honor for the past five months to command, I desire to personally express to them my most earnest and sincere thanks for their excellent conduct whether in quarters, bivouac, on the march or in action. During that period you have done much arduous and

valuable service. You were under fire at Santa Rita Sept. 9th and 16th, at Porac Sept. 28th, in the eleven engagements at Angeles Oct. 10th to 20th inclusive and the advance and capture of Bambam Nov. 18th and your bearing always was such as might have been expected from organizations which won the victories at San Juan and El Caney. You have always



HENRY WALKER.

been prompt to the moment in taking position in line of battle. Your marches have been rapid and well conducted and your treatment of and bearing toward the Philippine people has been of a character which could well be taken as a model and example by all soldiers placed under similar conditions.

"We were not strangers when we met in this beautiful Island of the Pacific. I witnessed the Ninth when it gallantly charged the Spanish trenches at San Juan, and I heard the sound of victory as the 12th led in the battle of El Caney. For the kind consideration you have always extended both officially and personally to myself, I can't find words to express all that I feel in thanks and heartfelt appreciation, and to the end of my life this service will be remembered with pride and pleasure. I shall always follow with interest the career of the 9th and 12th Infantry, Light Battery E of the 1st Art., the officers of my staff and also Troops E and K of the 4th Cav., who were with me on the expedition to San Miguel de Caneling, the 36th Inf. which was with me at Santa Rita and Porac and the pontoon of the 17th Inf. which engaged in the combats at Angeles, and will entertain an ever increasing solicitude for the happiness and prosperity of you all.

"Sgnd. JOSEPH WHEELER.

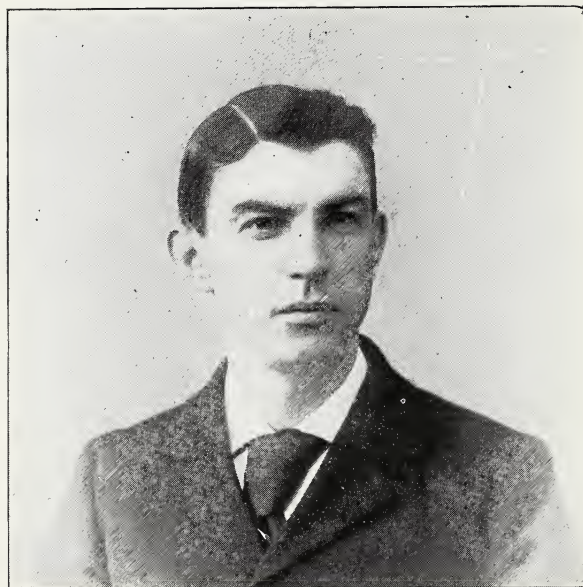
"Brg. Gen. U. S. V."

The following interesting letters in relation to the China campaign were written to relatives in Spencer, by Eugene F. Lyon of the 9th, the young Spencer soldier who gave up his life at Tien Tsin:

Tien Tsin, China, July 21, 1900.

Dear Lottie : I write to let you know I am well and hope this will find you the same. We had a fine trip from Manila. The only stop was at Nagasaki, Japan, for coal, but we did not take all that we could as a cable came that we must hurry to the front with all possible speed, so off we went and July 11th we arrived at Taku, the entrance of the river to Tien Tsin and then found 47 war ships to protect us, and it did look like war. There was the Brooklyn and Newark of the U. S., and the Japanese, Russian, French, German, Italian, Austrian and England governments had ships here and it made a lovely sight. I enjoyed it as I never saw so many before in my life. We anchored right in the middle of them and got and gave three cheers to each one. Two batallions left as soon as possible for the front and got three cheers as they left. They got here the 12th and got into a fight the next day and lost 97, killed and wounded. All the other nations lost heavily. The 3rd, or my battalion, was not in the fight as we did not get there until noon, but we went out to the lines and were kept in reserve. The fight lasted from 4 A. M. until 8 P. M., and it was a hot one. All the time the English and Russians were shelling the city and it was burning in a number of

places. The roar of the cannon, the bursting of shells, the snap and whiz of bullets, would make one think he was in hell, and it was hell. Tien Tsin is a walled city. The first wall is made of dirt twenty feet high, thirty feet thick at the top and fifty feet at the bottom. It took from four in the morning until noon to take that wall and a lot of men were lost, and then came the stone wall. We advanced steadily but could not take it. The Chinese poured such a deadly fire upon the men that all they could do was to hold the ground they had



THOMAS JAMES DONAHUE,

Son of Patrick and Ellen Donahue; born in Brookfield January 24, 1868; came to Spencer in 1875. Enlisted January 27, 1899; discharged February 24, 1902. Died August 23, 1903.

taken. It was here we lost Col. Liscom at the head of the lines talking to his men. It was here that Old Glory was shot down twice and picked up. The third who picked it up held it until it left the field at dark. The men who were wounded had to lay on the field until dark as it was dangerous to lift your head from the ground. How the poor men did suffer. It was here that the English marines and the Japanese soldiers fought like brothers, side by side, and the American soldier

will always find a warm spot in the hearts of those two nations for the acts of kindness and bravery. That day's fight has drawn those two nations nearer to America than ever, but it was done with blood, and American blood. That night after roll call and sadness had darkened every camp in the field, the little Japanese and the American marines planned to blow open the gates to the city and at three o'clock the next morning there was a loud noise. Down went the gates and in rushed the Japs and the marines and had a hard but short fight. A sergeant of the marines, the first white man ever known to go in and come out of that city alive, planted Old Glory on the wall and another in the centre of the city. The Japs were next. The Chinese fled to the other end of the city and had a hard fight with the Russians and French, but were driven out and went toward Peking. The city had a population of one and a half million and just think what a sight it made after sixteen hours shelling. I won't try to tell you how it looked. Men, women and children in all shapes and conditions, also horses and dogs. It was horrible, and the smell! War is hell and no mistake. My battalion went in and took quarters in the arsenal. They had plenty of arms and supplies. I had a lot of Chinese prisoners that afternoon and I made them bury all the dead in our district. The detail was a large one so I kept my gun loaded ready for anything that came along, but I had no trouble until that night. I was on post on top of the wall when I was fired upon by about 25 Chinamen. I located the shots and called for help and we soon ended the life of ten of them. The next day I looked over the city. I started to, I mean, but it made me sick and I had to come back, but I went as far as the mint and there saw a sight that almost made my eyes fall out of my head. A shell had struck the building and there were thousands of tons of silver bullion all in one heap and the soldiers of all nations taking it away in wagons and not a word said. I was just taking a load when my Captain came along and wanted me to go with him to the English General's quarters and then the General ordered a guard put on the mint so I got lots of work and no bullion, but the English and Americans are going to divide it up and we expect to get a few dollars out of it and we ought to. The English general has sent a letter of praise to the 9th Infantry and American marines for the brave acts they did on the line the day of the fight. Say, we can knock the starch out of anything over here and they know it after the fight too. Don't tell anyone the French are no good, or Russians either. England has got a Chinese regiment here from Hong Kong and a regi-

ment from India. They wear a lot of cloth on their heads and they can fight. We and the Japanese are the best dressed troops here. The Russians wore big heavy boots and they look tired all the time. The climate is just like that in the States and the boys are picking up. We get all kinds of vegetables and are having some fine dinners."

"Gene."

Pekin, China, Aug. 29, 1900.

"Dear Sister Lottie : I suppose you are waiting to hear from me as most sisters would be in a case like this. I am alive and well, but have been very tired and footsore. When we got to the gates of this 'big City' they were locked and only one thing would open them and that was shot and shell, and a tired, dirty, ragged and a little hungry, lot of American soldiers had to open the gates to those massive walls, and we did it in the good old American style. I will try and describe the terrible march we had and what happened from the time we left Tien Tsin until we got to Pekin. We left Tien Tsin one afternoon and camped in a cornfield. All the allied forces were there and that night it rained and we got wet, and were covered with mud. We got up at three in the morning and took our place on the line and at daybreak there was a hard fight which lasted three and one-half hours, and many men were wounded, mostly Japanese troops and Russians. We were reserves for the Japs but did not get a chance to show the others what we could do, but did later. We camped that night in that town and after an eight mile march in the hot sun we struck the Chinks in a well fortified town and we were in the advance with the English troops as our reserve. It was here that Riley's Battery got in its first work and it was a beauty. The Chinks opened up first on the battery but Riley soon stopped them and then the 9th, 14th and marines went after them. It was here that a large force of Russians tried the day before to take the town but were driven back with heavy loss ; but they did not drive us back. We kept a steady advance and when the time came charged them and took the town and put the old flag on the top of a water tower just as the little Japs put theirs in another part of the town. Each man saluted with the flag as he put it in place. It was here that Admiral Seamore had to give up his train. It was too hot for him. We stayed here that night and all the next day. Our loss was 53, killed and wounded. My company lost a 2nd Lieutenant and one private, both wounded. Chinese lost heavily. We started the next day fresh and well filled up on all kinds of vegetables, and felt as if we could whip the whole world. But we had a

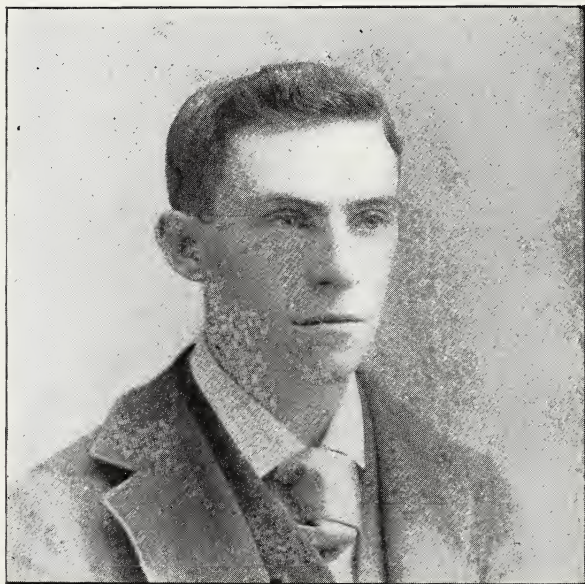
long, hard march before us and an object in view. There were some Americans to help. We must make Pekin with all possible haste. We must keep up with the other nations or be sneered at. We must plant the old flag first if possible on the walls of Pekin, and with the help of God, Lottie, we did. Oh, that morning I shall never forget the longest day I live. Our battery worked for one hour pounding away at one gate. At last it fell and in rushed our men, only to be met with terrible fire from the enemy. We soon drove them through another gate which they closed and locked. In here on top of that wall were the American and British subjects. We could see them and hear them cheer, but that gate. It was locked. Bang ! Bang ! Bang ! Riley said he would open every gate at Pekin. He had started on this, the most important one. There was blood in every American soldier's eyes, a cry on his lips, and the stern voice of General Chaffee telling us to be cool. But how could we ? A terrible crash ! the gate was down. A mad rush, a wild yell, and we were in and were having a hot little fight. Just at this point a Japanese coolie who worked for England came in with a long ladder and put it on the side of the wall. A soldier gave him the Stars and Stripes and he carried them to the top of the wall, followed by eight of my company. How we did yell ! The little Jap waved the old flag as if it were his own, and yelled. The people on the wall kissed it and prayed and cried and hugged our dirty, tired but brave soldiers. Here we stopped. We did what we were sent to do and had done it well, and the suffering we went through was terrible from the heat. Some died. We lost a lot of horses from the heat. All nations lost men and horses. Our feet were all blisters, our clothes in rags and our faces dirty, but we got here and yesterday the Empress surrendered the Palace and the Forbidden City and she was wise in doing so. I see in the paper they have pictures of the Boxers with gas pipe guns. That is not so ; they have the latest of guns. They use the Krupp field guns the Manlicker and Mauser rifle, and have a fine up-to-date cavalry and have a well drilled lot of men. We have been fighting a lot of Imperial troops that are in with the Boxers.

"This is the dirtiest country I ever saw, and ought to be burned up. There are seven high walls to go through to get to the Palace. I have never seen it. We are not allowed to go any further than we have taken. After the surrender they locked the gates and we don't bother them or they us. I have no use for a Chinaman and won't live on the same street with them when I get home. Well, I must close now for this time.

The next time I will tell you more about the Chinese, their ways of living and the country.

From your loving brother,
"Gene."

"I was going to tell you about the Chinese and their ways. They never wash themselves, that is the poor class and they smell terribly, but the rich are very neat and some of them can talk good English. They have fine vegetable gardens and we have sampled them. We have had all kinds of fresh vegetables



THOMAS McGRATH,

Son of Thomas and Mary Jane McGrath, was born in Spencer, August 27, 1875.

and for thirty miles around Pekin there is not a vegetable or a cow or a sheep. We have taken them all, and had to, to feed about 120,000 men, so you may guess what state the country is in. There will be a lot of Chinese starve this winter from the foolish move they made this summer. You ought to see the property the Boxers ruined by fire; all inside of one wall they burned in order to get at the foreigners and kill them, but they could not do it. There were not many foreigners killed after all, but there would have been if we had not got here

just as we did. Everything is quiet here now. Once in a while we hear a shot, but we have got used to it and don't mind it now. The Japanese don't bother with them. They go out every day and if they find any guns there are some dead Chinamen. They hate the Chinks but love an American. I did one act of good in my life. I saved a Jap one night. He fell out from the heat and so did I and when I found him I made him come to our camp and gave him some hardtack, bacon and coffee, and then he wanted to go and find his company. I would not let him and he slept beside me all night and had his breakfast the next morning. We had to pass the Japs the next morning and he found his company. That night when we camped we were with the Japs and he brought me a nice chicken all cooked, and a watermelon. It was fine I tell you, and every time I saw, or see, him now, he has something for me and the rest are just the same as he is. They like us and say Americans can fight. This is all.

“Good-bye,

“From Gene.”

The following lines were written after the battle of Tientsin by a soldier of the 9th and copied by James Martin, who sent them to Spencer. They illustrate still further the terrible struggle for victory through which that famous regiment passed:

If I should live one hundred years,
And fight one hundred fights,
One battle day will stand alone
From other days and nights.

When at the gates of Tientsin,
Shot riddled, old and gray,
Our glorious ninth and her marines
In mud and water lay.

The earth was red, the walls were red,
It made us sick to see
The crimson curdling in the moat
That soaked us to the knee.

When darkness fell, and parched with thirst,
We drank the brackish flood,
We knew the brimming cup we drained
Was tainted too with blood.

Oh! when the stirring tale is told,
Remember gallant Noyes,
Who dropped, a bullet in his leg,
Among his soldier boys.

Crawling back along that slimy ditch,
And cool as on parade,
Though faint, with his first report
To English Dorward made.

When Liscum fell, his last command
Spurred on our weary feet;
Along the flaming path of war
“Keep firing, don't retreat.”

We faced the rampart's blazing shells,
The loop-holes spouting leads
And every forward step we took
Was marked with soldiers dead.

But before the smoky morning broke
Our troops came marching in
To plant “Old Glory” on the shrine
Of God and Mandarin.

The ninth, tell all the folks at home,
Have felt the maxim's jaws;
But Yankee swords have saved the day
And clipped the dragon's claws.

As one event after another passed the time came when the 9th was ordered back to Manila, having with the allied forces accomplished their mission to China. They served for a while in the Philippines and then their term of enlistment having expired, most of the regiment took transports for the United States, glad enough once more to turn their faces homeward. Four of the Spencer boys came directly home from San Francisco. Some of the others stopped by the wayside to see friends or relatives. When the veterans of the Philippine and China wars reached Spencer the Board of Trade decided to hold a reception in honor of these soldiers and after the reception give them a banquet. This accordingly was done, and the following abridged account was taken from the Spencer Leader of that week's issue:

PATRIOTIC OUTBURST.

Reception and Banquet Tendered by Board of Trade to Returning Soldiers.

Philippine and China Veterans Get Welcome They Never Will Forget.

The reception and banquet to the Spencer soldiers who have just returned from the Philippines and Chinese campaigns were successful beyond the fondest dreams of the promoters of the celebrations and both meetings met with a popular approval that was unanticipated by most people. One of the speakers remarked in private conversation: "Spencer always turns out well to a patriotic meeting, and I believe that it is a good thing." Well Spencer seemed to turn out unusually well Monday night and at 7.30, when the exercises were scheduled to begin, not a vacant seat could be had in the town hall. Members of Luther Hill camp, Sons of Veterans, acted as ushers and seated the audience.

The Spencer brass band occupied the northeast corner of the auditorium and discoursed martial airs while the crowd was rapidly filling the seats.

When the guests of the evening and those who were to occupy seats upon the stage filed onto the platform there was a big ovation from the crowd.

In the front were Privates Thomas Donahue, Frank Plante, Treffle Bosse and Joseph Gareau, late of the Ninth regiment, which saw such hard fighting in Samar and China; Chairman of the committee, John O'Gara; Henry M. Tower, the presiding officer; Dr. E. W. Norwood and Captain Emerson Stone; Arza Grinnell, veteran of the Mexican war; Selectmen N. C. Bryant, H. H. Capen, W. H. McDonnell, A. F. Warren; members of the G. A. R. and citizens.

John O'Gara stated the object of the meeting and the plans of the committee, and then introduced Henry M. Tower, ex-president of the Board of Trade, as chairman of the meeting.

"Johnny Comes Marching Home" was sung by a quartet composed of John Hosking, William Hosking, W. J. Heffernan and H. H. Beath.

The audience, it could be seen by gazing from the stage at the faces below, was in perfect sympathy with the occasion



TREFFLE BOSSE.



MARTIN ANDREW SILK.

Born in Spencer, April 22, 1877. His parents were James and Julia Silk, who came from Ireland and settled in Spencer in 1864. Enlisted December 7, 1899.

and every bit of patriotic music or patriotic sentiment, set the feet to keeping time or the hands to applauding.

The Spencer Brass Band, just previous to the speeches, played a medley of patriotic airs, "Songs of the Boys in Blue." The band played it well too, under Mr. Plante's direction, and the enlivening air of "Tramp, Tramp," the triumphant music of "Marching Through Georgia," together with the saucy tune of "Yankee Doodle" and the inspiring strains of the national anthem put the audience at fever pitch, so that the close of the selection was marked by a great outburst of applause and the state of mind of the audience was then just right for the reception of the speeches which followed.

In opening the exercises Mr. Tower said:
"Fellow Citizens:"

"This is an unusual occasion. Not since this hall was built, until now, has there been an opportunity for a meeting of this kind. But twice before in a hundred and twenty-five years, have similar conditions arisen, and these were furnished by the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. It therefore seems probable, that most, if not all of us, may never again witness a gathering for such a purpose.

"This is no innovation. Public meetings of like character have been held from time immemorial, and the greatest celebrations in the world's history have been made in honor of soldiers returned from victorious wars. At such times there arises in the hearts of mankind a feeling of patriotic impulse, a spontaneous enthusiasm which demands expression, and has been common to every race and age.

"We are met, to render a just tribute of appreciation to living heroes, fresh from the fields of conflict. Young men who went from us to fight our Nation's battles, and having fulfilled their duty, completed their service, and obtained an honorable discharge, have returned to their kindred and friends with a record of which they as individuals, and we as citizens of Spencer, may well be proud. But not wholly on account of the returned soldiers who are present tonight, do we celebrate and bestow words of commendation, but we also include all their comrades from Spencer who have done patriotic service for the nation, since the beginning of the Spanish-American War. It may, and quite likely will be, difficult for us to realize the hardships and privations these men have undergone, and the dangers they have been subjected to, since they went away. It is true, imagination may picture, and language describe what their lot has been, but the full meaning can never be understood except by those who have had similar experiences.

“We do, however, understand and are alive to the fact, that these men have rendered a service to our nation that is worthy of public recognition, and because of this we are prepared to honor them, here and now. This large and promiscuous assembly, representing all classes and conditions, is not only a demonstration of patriotic sentiment, but a more eloquent tribute of admiration for their deeds and achievements, than words can give. These young men, these men who volunteered in our stead and who became in fact our substitutes, have been seasick, and homesick, and some of them heartsick, since we last saw them. For us, under a torrid sun and on a forced march, they have suffered heat almost to the point of exhaustion and death. Day after day, they have drunk warm and brackish or alkaline water, and at times have suffered the pangs of hunger. They have many times in drenching rains perhaps, forded rivers breast high and waded long distances through marshes and almost impassible swamps in mud and mire knee deep. For us they have slowly and patiently cut their way through thorny jungles that almost defied the skill of men to penetrate. They have been obliged frequently to go to sleep on the ground with no roof over their heads but the canopy of heaven, and in a tropical land over-run with reptiles and swarming with insects. A multitude of times they have been in peril day and night from the bullet, the dagger, and other implements of warfare, in a land of a half civilized and treacherous enemy, and likely to be ambushed at any moment. They have been stricken and wasted by malarial fevers, and emaciated by dysentery in a country where death and its evidences stared them in the face on every side, and they have passed through all this and more, not simply for themselves, nor on account of the nation, but just as truly, as representatives of the inhabitants of the town of Spencer.

“And shall we who have stayed at home and serenely followed the avocation of peace, while they have been at the front fighting and suffering in our behalf, shall we withhold words of praise and gratitude, for their deeds of bravery and self sacrifice? No! We are here to say No! and the heart of every patriotic citizen cannot do otherwise than beat responsively to this sentiment.

“We have not forgotten, we cannot forget, that it was the Ninth regiment of United States Infantry, of which these young men were members, that so persistently and pluckily led the way to Peking, to the rescue of our beleaguered legation, while all the world looked on and wondered. It was said by officers of the allied forces who witnessed their work that they all fought like devils. They did not ask to be sent to duty in the rear, but were willing to take the brunt of the battle in

the front ranks, and as the enemy was beaten back they had the supreme satisfaction of planting the Stars and Stripes within the gates of the Chinese Imperial city, no more to be taken down until they got ready to go. Is not that an achievement for a righteous purpose that is worthy the highest praise? It is, but this, however, is not all. Our previous naval victories at Manila and Santiago, coupled with this brave charge on Peking, established in the eyes of all the nations what we had believed all along, that American sailors and soldiers are the most efficient fighting men in the world. And Spencer, we will always remember, was represented in that fight by nine of her native born sons. They helped on to victory in a battle so memorable, that the tale of it will be repeated in history, as long as civilization shall last, and we, who take a just pride in our nation's present exalted position among the nations, cannot without demeaning ourselves, fail to render a generous tribute of praise to those whose deeds have been so potent a factor in establishing our prestige.

"There are living today and present on this platform men representing soldiers of the Mexican, Civil, Philippine and China Wars, men as brave as ever shouldered a musket; men who went forth to fight for their homes and native land; men who have been tried and tested on the field of battle. Others just as brave and just as deserving died in the hospital or in the field, or have since died at home, but no words of ours can now reach their ears to tell them what we would gladly say. Therefore it is important if we have a message to say to the living that we speak it while we may. One of the most appropriate customs of this nation is the annual strewing with flowers the graves of our departed sailors and soldiers. And while this is most fitting, we shall do ourselves greater honor by bestowing as we have opportunity, bouquets of appreciation and kind regard on the men still living who have for our country's sake counted not their lives dear unto themselves in the hour of conflict, and into whose hearts kind and sympathetic words will fall like a benediction. And now, on behalf of this audience, and of all who sympathize with the purpose of this meeting, I extend to these returned soldiers from the Philippines, a warm fraternal greeting in recognition of the service they have so well performed."

Dr. E. W. Norwood and Emerson Stone made the other addresses of the evening, after which "America" was sung by the quartet and the meeting dissolved. Many then pressed to the front to shake hands with the young soldiers. Then about 120 preceded to the Massasoit Hotel, where a banquet was had, where the usual after-dinner program of toasts and speeches was indulged in until a late hour.

BIOGRAPHY OF JOHN EDWARD BACON

BY JOSEPH W. TEMPLE.

The subject of this biography is of the fourth generation from John Bacon, who was born in 1710, the direct line being John, Daniel, Asa and Berthier, his father, who was born in Charlton, May 8, 1808.

John Edward Bacon was a native of Spencer, born July 11, 1837, at the farm-house of the late Hazary Wilson, his uncle, in the southerly part of Spencer. His mother, Cynthia Ann, was the daughter of the late Jacob Wilson, the original owner of the "Wilson Mansion," and was also born there, February 19, 1815. Berthier and Cynthia Ann were married January 7, 1835, and their children were: John Edward, Linus Berthier and Arthur Berthier, the latter the only survivor of both parents and children.

Their home was in Charlton, "Northside," so called, where his father found employment in the tannery, owned and occupied by his grandfather, Asa Bacon, until he moved to Spencer in 1852, to become manager of the boot manufactory of Mr. Charles E. Denny. Two years later he returned to the "Northside" and engaged in the manufacture of boots, employing several men and was the pioneer, in this line of work, in Charlton.

John Edward, during these years, was attending the district schools, as opportunity occurred, where the family resided and at the age of sixteen he supplemented these with two terms at Leicester academy. In 1856 the family moved to Warren, Mass., and during their residence there he attended at intervals the Quaboag seminary of that town. Later he was a member of the high school, in Spencer. These were broken opportunities, but his thirst for knowledge and being a student, naturally, he made the most of them, admirably fitting himself for the business and social positions he enjoyed in after life.

While in Warren, his father became general manager of the Warren Boot & Shoe Company, and shortly after a partner

with Mr. Emory Shumway, they having purchased the works, and interests of this company. The firm name was Shumway & Bacon. This relation, however, was of short duration, as the reverses that overwhelmed the country in the business depression of 1857, closed this enterprise, also.

Shortly after this failure, Mr. Bacon and his son, J. Edward, came to Spencer and found employment with the boot firm of Livermore & Drury. On the 3rd of August, 1857, Mr. Bacon senior died and in the early part of '58 the family moved to Spencer and this place became their permanent home.



JOHN EDWARD BACON

J. Edward continued with this firm two summers and during the winters taught school in district No. 9, of this town. Later on he entered the employ of J. Green & Company, boot manufacturers. For a season he was engaged in the meat and provision business with Mr. Asahel Lamb, but in 1865, he took up his former work, in the employ of Charles and George Watson, boot manufacturers, and also owners of a general merchandise store. This year, this firm dissolved partnership, the former retaining the factory and the latter the store. Mr. Watson now closed out the store and converted the building into a boot factory, where he continued the business, with Mr. Bacon, as

partner, under the firm name of George Watson & Company. Mr. Watson died in 1866, and Mr. Bacon remained in the business, alone, until 1867, when, in company with Mr. I. Rich Kent of Calais, Vt., purchased the property and carried on the business under the style of Kent & Bacon, until the decease of Mr. Kent in 1875.

December 21st of this year the boot factory of Bush & Grout was destroyed by fire and their business was consolidated with that of Mr. Bacon and these arrangements continued for two years. Upon the withdrawal of Bush & Grout (to occupy their new factory), Mr. Bacon admitted Mr. Van R. Kent as partner, the firm name being J. E. Bacon & Company. In 1880, Mr. Bacon and Mr. Isaac L. Prouty purchased the Bush & Grout factory and the works of J. E. Bacon & Company were moved into it and Mr. Prouty and Mr. Myron A. Young became associated with him in this factory, continuing in the same line of work. The firm was known as Bacon, Kent & Company.

January 1st, 1889, Mr. Kent withdrew from the firm and in 1893, Messrs Prouty & Young left it to become members of the Isaac Prouty Company, recently formed. From this date until the decease of Mr. Bacon, he remained alone in business under the firm name of J. E. Bacon & Company.

Mr. Bacon was naturally a business man, devoting his time and talents to his work in hand, with untiring energy. So close, indeed, did he apply himself, that at times his family and immediate friends grew anxious lest his devotion to it should sooner or later, affect his health. Work, however, was a predominating characteristic and he gave little heed to their frequent warnings, observing but short seasons of rest, or recreation and these very limited. Starting in life with a cheerful disposition and robust in health, he felt he was equal to almost any business emergency, but before reaching three score years it was in evidence that he was taxing his powers of endurance to such an extent, that serious results must follow in the near future unless the advice of friends was heeded. These forebodings were, however, too soon realized, and he passed away February 4, 1898. Not ambitious to become a leader, but always ready to lend a hand in any work or movement that was honorable and above suspicions. These qualities were recognized by his fellow citizens, generally, but nowhere were they more fully appreciated, perhaps, and his individuality more clearly marked, than in the church of Our Father and parish, of which he was an influential member.

Born and reared under the teachings of this sect (Universalist), he entered into the work of reorganization of this so-

ciety in 1881, with zest and to his efforts is largely due the successful establishment of it and the erecting of the new church edifice, which was dedicated October 15, 1883.

Mr. Bacon was an amateur in music and took particular interest in the choir of this church, which was under his direction and management until within a short time of his decease. Mrs. Bacon being a soprano singer of much merit co-operated with him in this work and proved a faithful and valuable assistant. Mr. Bacon used his voice in song on social and public occasions, in connection with a quartet of male voices, of which he was a member for many years.

He was positive in his utterance and if convinced a subject or question under discussion required a negative reply, he said No! with emphasis. He had the courage of his convictions and always expressed himself in accordance with their promptings. Just here, as an illustration of this trait in his character, is a story of his childhood when two and one-half years of age. He had committed a childish act, his mother thought wrong, and asked him if he was not sorry. He answered, promptly, "No!" She repeated the question and again he said, "No!" "Is it not a pity," she said, and he replied "Yes." Then she began to chastise him and while doing so, would ask him if he was not sorry, but always getting the same reply, No! Finally, the grandfather, who had been a silent witness to the proceedings, says: "Ann, I think you have punished him enough, to make him tell a lie and I guess you had better stop."

While this childish episode is not a remarkable event, yet those familiar with the life and habits of Mr. Bacon, will recognize a prominent characteristic, as it was his custom to use those monosyllables in a way that admitted of no doubt, as to the meaning he wished to convey. It marked that sterling quality in a man which helps make his word as good as his bond.

He was an honored member and treasurer of the local Masonic body; had been director in the Spencer National Bank; trustee in the Spencer Savings Bank; selectman, assessor and member of the school-board for years; was legislator in the winter of 1893-4, and was chairman of the committee on agriculture. Was Republican in politics, but not a leader; on the contrary, he belonged to that class of citizens who control events by their force of character and shape public opinion by their own lives of unimpeached integrity.

He married Mary Jane Hersey, daughter of the late Nathan Hersey, January 1, 1867, and by this union two children were born, viz. Linus H. and William E. The widow and these children survive him

BIOGRAPHY OF NATHAN HERSEY

BY JOSEPH W. TEMPLE.

Nathan Hersey was the oldest son of Elijah Jr., and Martha Brownell Hersey, and was born in Leicester, January 11, 1809. The family consisted of one daughter and three sons, viz: Eliza, Nathan, Martin and Thomas.

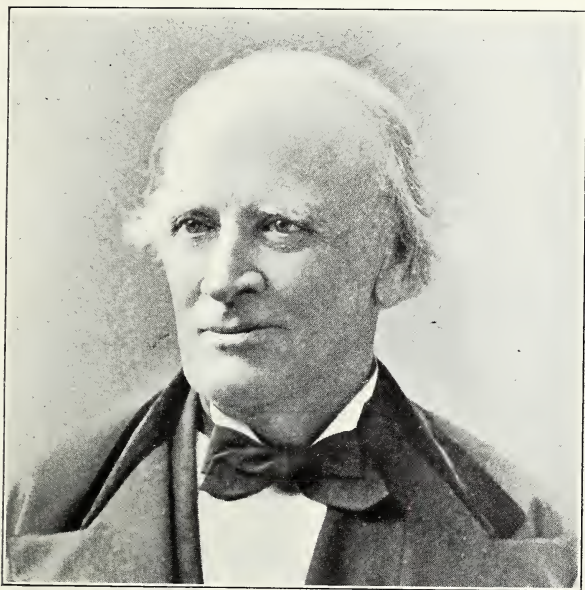
Elijah Jr., early became a resident of Spencer and lived in the dwelling once standing on the farm now owned and occupied by William H. Sibley, where he died at the ripe old age of one hundred years. His wife died at the age of ninety-seven years, six months. The Hersey family were of English ancestry and the original William Hersey came to this country in 1635 and settled in Hingham, Mass. The line of descent was: Elijah, grandfather of the subject of this sketch, Elijah Jr., Joshua, William and William Jr. The sons of Elijah Jr., were strong, massive men, measuring six feet, or more in height, with an average weight of 190 pounds.

Nathan Hersey received his early education at the common schools in Leicester, which in those days were necessarily primitive, but later on this was supplemented by one or more terms at Leicester academy. His early life, consisted of the routine work of the farmer of those times, but later he became extensively engaged in the lumber business, buying large tracts of lumber, with or without land, as the opportunity afforded.

As early as 1844 he became a member of the constabulary force in Spencer and was a member of this body when he received his first appointment as deputy sheriff in 1853, under Sheriff George Richardson. His succeeding appointments to this office were under Sheriffs Knowlton and Sprague and under the latter his services were continuous from 1871 to 1890, making a grand total, since first appointment, of thirty-one years. Mr. Hersey was a fearless officer and this trait was so predominant in the discharge of his duties, that he soon became a terror to evil doers. His stature gave him an imposing appearance and this feature, together with a strong arm and well developed muscle, enabled him to enter a crowd, single handed, and make arrests, where two or more ordinary men

would prefer not to go. He did not parley with obstinate prisoners, but was lenient and kindly disposed to those who did not seriously object to do his bidding.

A story is told of a prisoner, who, on being asked why he submitted to him without a struggle, said: "Why, Hersey makes a prisoner feel as though he was doing him a favor, by arresting him." He was always cool and self-possessed and when called upon to assert the authority of his office, these qualities served him well in the discharge of his arduous and oft-times dangerous duties. As a public official, his services as chief



NATHAN HERSEY

marshal, on the occasion of a public parade, were always in demand and being a good horseman he made a commanding appearance, when in uniform and mounted on his favorite horse, at the head of his corps of deputies.

Mr. Hersey served the town as selectman, assessor and collector, holding the latter office for thirty years or more; was one of the incorporators of the Spencer Savings Bank, a trustee and member of the Investment committee for twenty years and his services, upon the latter board, were particularly valuable, as he was considered a good judge of real estate and its

value; was a careful and considerate investor for the institution and took pride in exercising his best judgment as one of its managers and advisors.

Mr. Hersey was a genial man to meet on all occasions, making many friends, who did not forsake him in his old age, as was in evidence upon the occasion of the celebration of his eightieth anniversary. His house was thronged at this gathering, and congratulations were cordial upon his rounding out four score years, so hale and hearty and among such a host of friends. Mr. Hersey was four times married. In 1833 to Miss Harriet Barnes, daughter of Amos Livermore, by whom he had four children, two dying in infancy, and Alonzo Henry, born in 1836, who died March 23, 1883. The others died in childhood. Mrs. Hersey died in 1836 and in 1838 he married Harriet, daughter of Major Isaac Lamb, and of this union he had three daughters, two of whom survive him, viz: Mrs. W. U. Stone of Leicester and Mrs. J. E. Bacon of Spencer. His second wife died October 20, 1849 and in 1853 he married Caroline, daughter of Joseph Cheever. She died in 1867 and in 1874 he married Mary E. Johnson of Andover, Mass., and she died June 20, 1895. There were no children by the last two marriages. Mr. Hersey died November 2, 1895, aged eighty-seven years, ten months and fifteen days.

BIOGRAPHY OF ISAAC LOTHROP PROUTY

BY JOSEPH W. TEMPLE

Isaac Lothrop Prouty was born January 30, 1831, at the old homestead in the northerly part of Spencer, recently owned and occupied by his younger brother, Vernon Prouty.

He was of the third generation in decent, from Richard Prouty, who came from England at the age of fourteen, about 1667 and settled in Scituate, Mass. Isaac, the youngest son of Richard, was among the first settlers in Spencer and was great-grandfather of Isaac L. Prouty, the subject of this sketch.

Isaac L. was the son of Captain John Nazro and Melinda (Luther) Prouty, their family consisting of five sons and one daughter, viz: Thomas A., Melinda, Theodore C., Isaac L., and Vernon, the last named, deceased May 19, 1906. Captain Prouty was a successful farmer and esteemed citizen, was chosen captain of the state militia, served the town as selectman, overseer of the poor and filled other minor offices of the town with honor.

Isaac L. Prouty received his early education at the district school in North Spencer, supplemented by a short season at a private school taught by Miss Harrington, whose small home stood on the spot now occupied by the residence of the late Thomas A. Prouty. These advantages, although meager, he made the most of and they, together with a native sagacity which early developed, practically fitted him for the business life in which he held high rank. He passed the minor part of his life on his father's farm, but upon reaching his majority left the farm and entered the service of his uncle, Isaac Prouty, to learn the art of boot manufacturing as it was practiced in those days. Remaining with him a few years, he left this employ and went to Paxton with his brothers, John and Thomas A., to enter upon the first business venture of his life, viz—the manufacture of boots and keeping a general store, he and

his brother John to manage the former and Thomas A., the latter. Although of short duration, he never had cause to regret this first experience, but rather regarded it as a success, inasmuch, as it developed a desire for a larger field, and confidence in the ability to assume the management of a more extended business. At times it came to him that this larger field for expansion was the west, and after carefully considering the matter, with his brother John, they decided to close



ISAAC LOTHROP PROUTY

their Paxton business and seek a western field, but before their plans were consummated, however, and acting upon the advice of his uncle Isaac, in 1859, he came to Spencer and formed a partnership with David Prouty in the manufacture of boots, under the firm name of David Prouty & Co.

Their business relations continued until 1879, when David Prouty retired from the firm. The business was continued, however, by Charles A. Bemis and Charles H. Allen, two young

men formerly in the employ of David Prouty & Co., the firm being known as Bemis & Allen, with Mr. Prouty as their silent partner, director and manager. Before the close of this relation, Mr. Prouty, with his son-in-law, Myron A. Young, entered into business arrangements with John E. Bacon and Van R. Kent, in the same line of business, in the brick factory formerly occupied by Bush & Grout, under the firm name of Bacon, Kent & Company. Mr. Prouty retired from this firm in 1893.

In '94, he, with Mr. Young, became stockholders in the Isaac Prouty Company, was elected president and financial manager of the corporation, and occupied these positions until his decease.

The important, active positions he held in all these business relations, naturally brought him in contact with a large circle of business men outside his own town and he very soon established the reputation of being a shrewd, conservative and adroit manager. These rare qualifications inspired a degree of confidence among the trade, which added largely, to that other important adjunct, money capital, and early established for him a credit that for all his needs was never questioned. He possessed a social temperament, naturally, and in his contact with the diversity of interests, in the purchase and sale of merchandise, whether customer, salesman or competitor, he made himself agreeable to each and this characteristic was a potent factor in the consummation of his plans. In any subject under consideration, he had the faculty, first, learn the private, or prevailing opinion, in regard to it; then in an earnest, but quiet way, make his carefully studied suggestions, and they were generally accepted, as safe to follow.

He was an important man, in the business history of the town, having been identified with it from the close of his first venture to the closing days of his life, with but few short seasons of absolute rest from its responsibilities and continuous cares. He was considered a man of more than ordinary judgment and was often called upon in matters of vexed controversy in his own town and county, and his opinion on all such occasions was a guarantee of a fair and equitable adjustment and generous treatment to all parties interested. Ostentatious display was no part of his nature. This feature was observed in his personal and home surroundings and was soon noticeable in the absence of his name from the business address of the several firms of which he was an important member.

His home life was especially attractive to him, enjoying the neighborly call from friends. The tributes of respect and affection which were manifested at his obsequies, showed the deep

hold he had upon those who were favored with his friendship. Was happy in his domestic life and its environments, and his memory, there, will ever be held in grateful remembrance, as he was a dutiful husband and a kind, considerate and indulgent father.

He served the town as selectman in 1874 and '75 and in '82, represented the district in the General Court in the winter of 1881 and '82, and performed these duties faithfully, but in his case his services to the town were not measured by the number of terms he had served the town in an official capacity, but by the kind of service he had rendered it as advisor, or arbitrator, or in matters of complicated litigation. They were greater in number than the citizens generally realized and they called for the keen, discriminating, well balanced judgment, which he possessed. He had a natural aptitude for finance and in its application, his opinions and advice were valuable, even to those who had made this school a study for a life time. Son of a farmer's son, he never lost his interest in the pursuit of the farmer and was, consequently, deeply interested in the Spencer Farmers and Mechanics' Association, of which he had been president, and for many years on its finance committee; was an active and influential member and gave to it liberally, of time and money.

Was a Republican in politics and always took a lively interest in the affairs of the party, whether local, State or National.

He married Mary L. Skinner of Paxton and by this union one son and one daughter were born to them, the son dying young and the daughter became the wife of Myron A. Young. The widow, Mrs. Young, and grand-daughter, Louise Prouty (Young) Hyde, survive him. Mr. Prouty died February 6, 1904.

LEVI H. ADAMS

Levi H. Adams, the long-bearded man, was born in Spencer in April, 1836, and died at Honesdale, Pa., January 22, 1887.



LEVI H. ADAMS

He was a son of Levi and Betsey Adams of Pleasant street, and brother of Daniel W. Adams, who now occupies the old homestead. When a young man a fever resulted in perpetual

baldness of his head, but his beard grew amazingly until it attained the unusual length of thirty-six inches. In its way it was as much of a curiosity as the long tresses of the seven Sutherland sisters, whose fame has become world-wide. Mr. Adams was quite sensitive in regard to showing or talking about his beard and always carried the bulk of it inside his vest hidden from public gaze. He could have made a small fortune by going on exhibition, but resolutely refused all offers looking toward that end.

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